Alabama

Agriculture 1931 -
Condition of -

The Woes of the Southern Negro as Seen By Educational Leaders at Tuskegee

negro owned 1-31-31

"Do not raise cotton until you have corn in the bin and meat in the smokehouse."—Carl Williams, member Federal Farm Board.

"By gambling with cotton, the South has failed eight times in the last 40 years. That's a bad system."—Dr. Bradford Knapp, president Alabama Polytechnic Institute. new york. n.y.

"The farmers who have plenty of food laid aside for this year are not suffering."—Dr. R. R. Moton, Principal Tuskegee Institute.

"In the past our farmers have talked about diversification, but as soon as cotton went to 20 cents a pound, they forgot about diversification and planted all their land in cotton. This condition must be changed."—John H. Drakeford, president of the Bank of Tuskegee.

"Sixty-three Negro 4-H Club boys in one North Carolina County, each own one registered Jersey Cow."—I. W. Hill, United States Department of Agriculture.

"I have all plans made for my next year's crop and will not have to borrow any money from the bank because my food and feed crops will carry me through."—J. H. Nunn, Negro farmer, Autauga County, Alabama.

Farm Negroes Are Not Self Sustaining

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There were 1200 negroes in Prattville last Tuesday to hear the federal aid news and there were 400 white farmers. The court house was overcrowded and then not more than one third of them could crowd in. The Progress editor felt like rising and asking this question: "All of you colored farmers who brought something to town to sell today hold up your hands. All of you who have as many as 20 chickens on your yard hold up your hands. All who have as many as 10 rows of turnips, collards or cabbages in your gardens or who have sold $5.00 of farm produce since Christmas, hold up your hands."

And then repeat these to the white farmers. The editor knows that five times as many white farmers could have held up their hands.

The trouble with the farmer too many come to town with empty wagons and return with full wagons, or they formerly did. Now they must depend more on themselves.

There are hundreds who expect federal farm aid who will be disappointed. Before they apply for it they must remember these conditions:

All who receive it must have farmed and made a failure last year. They must have no other way of getting any money this year with which to farm. They must be worthy. They must give a first mortgage on their crops and the land owners must waive their rents or liens.

Farm Negroes Raise Little

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DEPEND ON SOME ONE ELSE TO GIVE TO THEM

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The trouble in the Black Belt is the negroes on the farm will not take the trouble to raise any of their food supplies. The Progress editor after a survey of about 40 negro families around Prattville ascertained they averaged keeping about 5 chickens to the family. Some had as high as 15 while others had none at all. They do not try to make eggs a part of their food crop. About half the negroes have something to eat in their gardens and the other half have no gardens. Heretofore when they needed food supplies they denpended entirely on the landowners and if they did not get it they were mad and moved to some other plantation. Such a system has impoverished the Black Belt.

Eagle
Wednesday, March 4, 1931

Negro Farmers Are Victims of "Slicker"

EUFAULA, Ala., March 4. (AP) —Negro tenant farmers of this section to whom a picture of government pensions of $40 a month was painted, at $4 a painting, are offering their chances of obtaining the money at greatly reduced rates.

The slick strangers who offered to 'register" their cases at $2 and charged an additional $2 to file their claims failed to return at an appointed time and investigation revealed they had been mulcted.

Sylacauga, Ala. Advance
Thursday, March 19, 1931

NEGRO TENANT FARMERS PAY $2 TO GET 'PENSION'

Eufaula, Ala.—The venerable bunko game of 40 acres and a mule has been resurrected in new clothing with the promise of $40 as a pension among negro tenant farmers through this section.

Of course it costs something. The victims are told that the government is planning to pay all negro farmers a monthly stipend of $40, but it requires a $2 cash payment to "get things lined up," and, if the intended victim looks gullible and a bit more prosperous than his fellows, an additional $2 to be "registered'.'

Those who have been duped display "receipts" for their money, signed with an illegible signature.

Thursday, March 19, 1931

THE FARM NEGRO'S FUTURE

The Progress has several hundred negroes on its subscription list. The negro churches and the negro societies are good patrons of the Progress, bringing to us much of their job work. The editor of The Progress was born on a farm containing many negroes. Our life has been spent among the negroes and, therefore, we feel a most kindly interest in them. The Progress criticises them severely for their shortcomings on the farm because we wish to help better their condition. The negro tenants who will try to make the farm self-sustaining can do so and continue on the farm. The lazy and indifferent must leave the farm which will in future go more on the cash basis. Until there is a radical change in the system of farming in the Black Belt there will be little credit given that section in the future. There should not be among people who have no business methods. The negro tenants can do if they will only try. They must get it out of their heads that they are entitled to a large amount of credit and must get on a cash basis. They can do it if they will only economize and try. They must do it.

SOUR NOTE ON THE SHIFTLESS

There is no thoughtful Negro in the Southern States who will not agree that all Negroes who have access to land will be very foolish not to plant vegetable seeds this Fall for the sake of health and strength this Winter.

The depression seems to be a problem of surpluses, but no one fears that farmers, especially Negro farmers, are likely to grow more vegetables than they will need for home use.

People must have adequate food to be healthy and resist disease as well as food

ish doctrines.

The average Southern farm Negro has never been thrifty and enterprising in the matter of food crops. Most of his thought and energies go into cotton-growing. His natural prejudices are against growing the food he must eat, especially vegetables. We are not quite sure why this is so, for the Negro enjoys good food and eats with gusto, except at breakfast. But that it is true none will deny.

These are not ordinary times. Most of us must forget our pride and make the best of a bad situation. Negroes who have been too proud to grow vegetables, chickens and pigs, would do well to compromise their principles this year and do their best to produce foods to carry them safely through a Winter which without such effort may prove to be hard and cruel.

Trust the soil. Love it and work it—make it prevent hunger, make it give growing children an even chance in life.

And of course what is good for Negroes is also good for whites. Thousands of poor white farmers in Alabama have habitually lived shiftless lives. The cotton which their thin soil produces is little in weed and light in fruit, nothing having been done by this type of farmer to build up the strength of his soil. This type of farmer does not compensate himself by taking care to grow a variety of vegetables and produce the hog meat, the chickens, the eggs and the milk which should go with these vegetables. The sorry cotton they grow can be excused—that is we could excuse it if we could forget that a few Winter cover crops would materially increase the yield per acre. But the perverse persistence with which a large section of our humbler white farmers ignore the production of foods is disgusting. New England farmers of the same class, cultivating a meaner type of soil, do very much better. They not only are more productive of food stuffs, but their farm houses are neater and better kept. Only the Lord God of Hosts knows why there should be this difference in the living standards of people of the same racial background.

All of which, however, is somewhat beside the point. What we started out to say is that any Negro who has opportunity to grow a Fall vegetable crop and does not do it hardly deserves the sympathy which he will expect to receive if he becomes lean and ashen from hunger. We are appealing to him in the hope that it may do some good—for once.

Both white and colored farmers did better this Spring and Summer than they had done before in decades. Under the relentless pressure of sheer necessity they planted more foodstuffs than they had before in a long time, and the crops have turned out well. But one planting of vegetables will not carry a family through till next Spring unless that family's income is enough to buy what it eats. We are not talking to farmers who have resources—we are talking to that large group of hand-to-mouth toilers who in the past have been deaf to the appeals of leadership and are the first to gasp for life when depressions come. We are talking especially to Negroes of this class because their economic plight is worse and because somewhat less notice is taken of their problems by the economic leadership of the State.

A great deal of the distress in rural homes today is the fault of the heads of those homes. Smoked meat keeps a long time. Stored corn and properly banked sweet potatoes keep a long time. In the good years, thousands of our farmers, white and black, neglected to build up reserves of these necessities, and when the bitter days of 1930 and 1931 came they had nothing to carry them through. These people cannot hope to make a great deal of money, even in ordinary times, but they can hope to make the food they must have to live and maintain their health at all times except when nature sends disasters, and this, fortunately, is not often.

We suspect that our leaders—our politicians, our prophets of rural economics, our preachers, our editors—have made it hard for shiftless people in these United States, especially in Alabama, to do better by flattering them indiscriminately. Too long have we told our audiences that they contained only the salt of the earth. The truth is that the average audience, in country, village or city, no matter by whom it is addressed, contains a goodly percentage of relatively worthless people. In so far as agriculture is concerned no man can regard himself as the salt of the earth if he cannot show that he has done his best with his opportunities. Such men ought not to be flattered. They ought to be held up to scorn by their neighbors. Neighbors could quickly stir all such people by condemning them and shaming them.

A worker of the land who does not make a reasonable effort to produce ample foods for himself and children deserves to be classed with the man who deserts his wife and children.

The average poor white and poor Negro on Alabama farms have never given Nature a chance to show what she could do for them.

THOUGHTS ON ALABAMA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Editor, The Advertiser:

Alabama is a great state, where most everything grown in the world may be grown to a satisfactory maturity but at this time not to a financial succes. We can raise as much cotton, corn, sugar cane, tobacco, peaches, wheat oats, rice, etc., per acre as any state. We rank about third in the States in the production of iron ore and coal. We have an abundance of everything mined or grown and yet there is suffering on every hand. We have great mills where the fabrics are woven and others where the cotton seed are crushed and separated into oil, hulls, meal, etc., and yet these very things are beyond the reach of many in our communities. Why?

More than 10,000 pieces of property in the state have been sold for taxes this year. There are more people out of employment than ever before known. We need to do something regardless of the reason.

When our government was formed, this was a farming country. Finally we began mining and manufacturing. We have now taken high rank in manufacturing of practically every known item. But our system of taxation is the same it was the first year of our existence. Thus we have had the homes of many of our good people sold from under them and we are at a loss to know where we will get our taxes next. It has been the policy of our people to look to the governor to show them where to get the money for the things we want. Every candidate runs on a "economy platform" and yet the first thing that happens is we are asked for more taxes. This may be due to the fact that the successful candidate does not know the condition of the treasury until after his election. Then he is faced with an emergency and must raise money. Each administration therefore will be compelled to follow this same plan of looking out for some place where the money may be gotten regardless of the justness of the levy, and will continue unless there is some good remedy and it strikes us that it would be a good idea to have the legislature at its extra session establish at the three principal state schools a school of taxation where these questions may be discussed with the students. They will soon be making the laws or advising those who are making them and we will certainly not have so many cases of property sold for taxation. Again it strikes us that we might do something to encourage our farmer friends. If they are not helped or placed in the position to help themselves, the very backbone of our country is gone. The State cannot prosper with such a large part of its citizenry in the condition the farmers are in today.

We hear the pleas to diversify, diversify. That can be done in a large way but most farmers and especially the better ones have only small acreage and their lands are adapted to only a few of the many crops that the state produces. Therefore we cannot ask every farmer to diversify. True most of our land is planted to cotton and corn but these are the crops that we have the best chance of converting into cash to meet the demands of the supply merchant. They are planted as companion crops for the reason that one requires a reasonably dry season while the other more rain. If we have a dry year, we make cotton and but little corn while if we have rain, we make corn and the boll weavil gets the cotton. Then if we are to get any one to advance us to make the crop we must promise to plant these crops.

If we plant our lands in other crops and there is a depression, even for a few weeks, the crop is of no value and does not keep. These are the only crops used on a large scale that can be harvested and stored for a more favorable season.

Then we must have a stable market before we can risk any other crop on a large scale and the farmer is not in position to make the market. That is a function or should be of the State and the civic organizations. Create a market so that the farmer can get backing and he will raise anything desired. Until this is done he must of necessity make cotton and corn.

Your paper used to carry a line, "Alabama must feed herself and diversify." She does feed herself. Take the lard crop for instance. It has been told of the millions of pounds of shortening sold within our borders. That is true but there are about three billion pounds of shortening of all kinds produced and consumed in the United States. Of this the cotton plant produces one billion pounds. Alabama produces about one-tenth of the cotton crop and therefore 100,000,000 pounds of shortening from her cotton crop. Her 2,500,000 people use only 75,000,000 pounds of this, leaving a surplus of 25,000,000 besides a goodly crop of lard from the many hogs we raise. But we have no refineries in the state.

That is true but a farmer cannot be required or supposed to have oil mills, rendering plants, etc. He is in the farming business only. In many instances he does not use his own shortening but give him the assurance that he can get his produce and not that made from Chinese peanuts or other imported vegtables and he will use it gladly.

He does not wrap his cotton in his own product but again he is not responsible. Our country allows England, who buys the cotton she cannot get from her own possessions, to dictate how it shall be packed. The farmer cannot make his own bagging but be assured he is willing to use that made of cotton, even if he has to pay more for it. The mills are giving encouragement to the extent that they are willing to allow seven pounds to take care of the difference in the cost. Cotton bagging will certainly make a better looking package. It will take better care of the product and can be used for other purposes when taken from the bale. Then our state should encourage the use of this bagging as it would consume 75,000 bales of our cotton. Then again it strikes us that the State could go further and lend the farmers a certain amount of money on his crop, that he has actually raised himself with his own labor and that of his family. How about storing his cotton, say one-tenth and allowing him to draw the present market price on it. The State holding title to it and selling at some future date when there is a market for it. Also allowing him to pay his taxes in cotton at say 10 cents per pound if he has actually raised. The State can use this cotton as collateral and borrow money back. This will prevent many land sales for taxes and give quite a relief. I only mention cotton as it is the greatest crop we have and if we can arrange our seeming surplus of that, we will be able to take care of the rest of our crops. Other states likewise.

The proposition of reducing acreage does not appeal to me. This tends to kill ambition. Why teach idleness? Idleness breeds crime. But you say diversify. Let's see. Take up a paper from the cotton belt and you see they are teaching reducing the crop and diversifying. In the wheat section the same is true, in the peach, the apple, the pecan, the bean and pea, the cane and other sections, the curtailment of production in every field, mine and mill, yet there is a scarcity of every item. As an exemple, kero-sene oil or gasoline can be bought in cars at the oil fields for less than it will take to fill the same tank car with raw river water.

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Agriculture - 1931

Condition of

TUSCALOOSA, ALA.
NEWS

AUG 24 1931

SHIFTLESS FARMERS

IN declaring that the poorer farmers of Alabama, particularly the negroes, must plant a fall vegetable crop to tide them through the winter, The Montgomery Advertiser sounds a timely note.

The Advertiser minces no words in taking this class to task, the thousands of poor white farmers in this state who "have habitually lived shiftless lives," as well as the negroes, advising that those of the latter race "who have been too proud to grow vegetables, chickens and pigs, would do well to compromise their principles this year and do their best to produce foods to carry them safely through the winter which without such effort may prove to be hard and cruel."

"We suspect," continues the Montgomery paper, "that our leaders—our politicians, our prophets of rural economics, our preachers, our editors—have made it hard for shiftless people in these United States, especially in Alabama, to do better by flattering them indiscriminately. Too long have we told our audiences that they contained only the salt of the earth. The truth is that the average audience, in country, village or city, no matter by whom it is addressed, contains a goodly percentage of relatively worthless people. In so far as agriculture is concerned no man can regard himself as the salt of the earth if he cannot show that [illegible] with opportunities. Such m[illegible] flatter[illegible] They ought to be held [illegible] their neighbo[illegible] Neighbors could quickly stir [illegible] such people by condemning them and shaming them.

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"The average poor white and poor negro in Alabama farms have never given Nature a chance to show what she could do for them."

The better class farmer of this state, of whom we have hundreds of thousands, do not, of course, meet with condemnation from The Advertiser, for they have improved their soil with cover crops, they have raised vegetables for home use, they have their cattle, their pigs and their chickens and, whatever the price of cotton may be, they are the last to face starvation. On the other hand, the shiftless and lazy farmer who refuses to plant vegetables for his own consumption, who refuses the responsibility of livestock and who expects the divine providence to provide him with a bountiful crop of cotton when the price is 25 cents a pound deserves every iota of condemnation which can be heaped upon him.

Alabama

LONG PLAN WOULD NOT EXTERMINATE THE BOLL WEEVIL

Advertiser 9-16-31

One argument for the Long plan is that a year's cotton holiday would exterminate the boll weevil. But would it? In answer to a question from Senator Bankhead of Alabama, H. A. Rohwer, acting chief of the Bureau of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, says, in a telegram: "Boll weevil feeds on a number of plants besides cotton. Elimination of cotton for one year would not in itself effect eradication. The larger the areas free from cotton the greater reduction in the number of weevils which would breed over Winter, thus effecting a corresponding reduction in abundance next season. Under favorable climatic conditions weevil population would probably be substantially the same as at present the second season following a nonplanting period."

COTTON AND THE WESTERN FARMER

Advertiser 9-22-31

The low price of cotton offers at the same time a challenge and an opportunity to the farmer of the Middle West according to Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer and the Southern Ruralist.

In a recent address, Dr. Poe listed the expansion of cotton acreage in the last decade and asserted a reduction of 10,000,000 acres was inevitable, predicting that it would be made largely east of the Mississippi River. Any future expansion of cotton acreage, said Dr. Poe, would be in the Southwest, particularly in Texas, where power machinery does the work cheaply.

"For the Southeast," he said, "present prices mean not just a temporary emergency and then a relapse to former cotton acreages. Rather, we have come to a permanent readjustment of our farming system. And this readjustment will involve, first, more live-at-home farming; second, more livestock, dairying and poultry. It means a greatly decreased Southern market for Western meats and feeds, but it does offer a real opportunity for Northern and Western stockmen and poultrymen to come South, take advantage of our cheap lands, long growing seasons and permanent readjustment in farming practices, and take the leadership in one of the most important agricultural changes America has ever known."

This new viewpoint of the effects of the cotton crisis is an interesting one and suggests hopeful possibilities in the matter of the South's obtaining some of the country's best agricultural talent.

'Self Help' Plan Is Advanced For Alabama Cotton Industry

Advertiser 9-24-31

Montgomery Ala

Farm Leaders Pin Hopes To Voluntary Action; To Urge 50 Per Cent Cut

In view of the fact that Texas has rejected the proposal to suspend cotton production in that State next year Alabama farm leaders have given up the idea of legislation to prohibit the growing of cotton in 1932, and yesterday went on record at a meeting here, in favor of a 50 per cent reduction annually in the producing of cotton in this State for the next two years, and also in favor of farmers pooling their present crop with the Alabama Farm Bureau Cotton Association.

This was made known in a statement prepared at the meeting which was held in the Jefferson Davis Hotel. The statement urges every real friend of agriculture in the State to use his best efforts in strengthening the farmers' organization and insists that the farmers themselves cut the cost of production, improve marketing facilities, adjust production to normal demand and improve farm home and rural life.

Besides the advocating of a reduction by one-half of cotton production in Alabama for the next two years, the farm leaders also urge farmers to produce ample food for themselves and their families and feed for livestock, make livestock a part of their permanent program and call upon agricultural agencies forced to serve them, for aid.

The Alabama Program

The Alabama program of farming for profit as outlined by agricultural leaders in session here follows:

"Since Texas has rejected the proposal to suspend completely production of cotton for one year it is obvious that Alabama and other states cannot undertake it.

"Therefore, we, in Alabama, must find the solution of our agricultural problems by application of our regular program. We must push forward diligently with our research work in order to find out the facts and then endeavor, through our bankers and other business people, county agents, Farm Bureaus, teachers of vocational agriculture and other agencies to make the widest possible application of these scientific facts on each farm.

"In order to deal effectively and intelligently with the difficult problems of agriculture all sincere and thoughtful friends of the farmer unanimously agree that the one paramount matter standing out over every other question is that the farm people must have a sound, wise, efficient and thorough-going farmer-owned and farmer-controlled organization.

"Out of the industry of agriculture itself must arise a strong, sturdy, bold, courageous leadership. Under these leaders, and with the counsel and assistance of all of the agencies created to serve agriculture there must be built this organization of farm folks for educational and cooperative purposes.

Four-Point Proposal

"Through such an organization, and with the counsel and assistance of the private and public agencies created to serve them the farmers themselves must: (1) Cut costs of production; (2) improve marketing facilities; (3) adjust production to normal demands; (4) improve the farm home and rural social life.

"Above all, therefore, every real friend of agriculture in Alabama should put forth every effort to strengthen the farmers' organization.

"The immediate question before us is what shall we do with the present crop of cotton.

Advertiser

"Farmers should join with all of their neighbors in pooling their cotton with the Alabama Farm Bureau Cotton Association. Under this plan the farmers will receive a substantial cash advance, and at the same time retain their interest in and their control over their cotton, and thus be in position to get the full benefit of any advance in price.

9-24-31

Cotton Group Sound

"This Association is on a sound business basis, and is in the hands of efficient and capable management.

"There is in sight an ample supply of cotton for two years based upon the present rate of consumption.

"This means that we should reduce our production of cotton annually for the next two years to one-half of 1931 production.

"In the meantime we should:

"(1) Make plans for the ample production of food for the family and feed for all livestock.

"(2) Make some form of livestock a part of the permanent program.

"(3) Improve in every conceivable way the efficiency, the comfort and the convenience of the farm home.

"(4) County farm and home demonstration agents and teachers of vocational agriculture in the several counties are in possession of full information as to methods and plans of procedure. Farm people, business people and others interested in agriculture are urged to cooperate actively with these agencies in making their plans to meet the situation.

"(5) That such meetings or conferences as may be necessary be held to acquaint farmers, bankers, merchants, and others with the facts and enlist their full cooperation in the adoption and application of these recommendations."

Those present at the meeting were L. N. Duncan, director of Extension Service; Seth P. Storrs, commissioner of agriculture; M. J. Funchess, director of Experiment Station; J. B. Hobdy, director of vocational agriculture; J. L. Edwards, president of Alabama Farm Bureau; Senator Teasley, Montgomery; Grover Hall, editor of Montgomery Advertiser; C. M. Stanley, editor of Alabama Journal; J. T. High, R. J. Arnold, Emmett Sizemore, district agents; E. L. Deal, executive secretary of Alabama Farm Bureau; F. W. Gist, agricultural statistician; J. A. Batey, acting manager Farm Bureau Cotton Association; R. E. Cammack, supervisor of vocational education; Harry Houghton, Walter Randolph of Alabama Farm Bureau and P. O. Davis, of Auburn.

Farmers' Income Over 118 Millions

Alabama farmers received a cash income of $118,035,000 from crop and livestock production in 1930, F. W. Gist, agricultural statistician, announced yesterday afternoon. Of this $101,804,000 came from crops and $16,231,000 from livestock.

Crops and livestock from which the income came follows:

Corn, $264,000; oats, $12,000; cotton lint, $67,022,000; cottonseed, $8,849,000; hay, $815,000; soybeans, $2,000; cowpeas, $52,000; peanuts, $3,107,000; potatoes, white, $3,861,000; sweet potatoes, $2,212,000; truck crops $1,616,000; apples, $922,000; peaches, $878,000; pears, $142,000; plums and cherries, $44,000; grapes, $2,000; oranges, $4,000; strawberries, $984,000; pecans, $448,000; sugar cane and syrup, $163,000; sorghum syrup, $266,000; forest products, $9,640,000; nursery products, $235,000; greenhouse products, $265,000; cattle and calves, $3,688,000; hogs, $4,447,000; sheep and lambs, $89,000; horses, $11,000; chickens, $1,439,000; eggs, $3,460,000; milk, $2,896,000; wool, $37,000; honey, $156,000; beeswax, $8,000.

Farms Operated In Alabama Under Mortgage By Full Owners Increase

By RUSSELL KENT
Advertiser Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—An increase in the number of Alabama farms operated by full owners which are mortgaged is shown in the summary of the census of agriculture taken last year when the figures are contrasted with those obtained in 1925 and 1920.

Alabama makes a favorable showing, however, in that the value of the land and buildings on its farms that are operated by full owners is substantially greater in the 1930 tabulation than in either 1925 or 1920.

According to this analysis, the number of Alabama farms operated by full owners last year was 75,144, compared with 79,282 in 1925 and with 95,548 in 1920. The number of such farms reporting mortgage debts was 29,617; in 1925, it was 23,659, and in 1920, it was 24,748.

The value of land and buildings of these farms operated by full owners in 1930 was $94,205,000, contrasted with $79,540,000 in 1925, and with $81,888,000 in 1920. The amount of mortgage debts on such farms last year was $37,422,000; in 1925, it was $33,327,000, and in 1920, it was $29,103,000. The ratio of mortgage debt to value was 39.72 per cent last year, contrasted with 41.90 per cent in 1925, and with 35.54 per cent in 1920.

A tremendous increase of automobiles, motor trucks and tractors was recorded in the decade between 1920 and 1930. Last year, the Census Bureau found 73,634 automobiles on Alabama farms, whereas in 1920 there were only 16,592. The number of motor trucks last year was 12,838, while in 1920 it was 1,180. There were 4,684 tractors on Alabama farms in 1930, contrasted with 2,465 in 1925, and with 811 in 1920. These figures apply to farms of all classes, those operated by tenants and part-owners as well as by full-owners.

As has been the case in other states for which these summary figures have been made public, the number of telephones on Alabama farms decreased sharply between 1920 and 1930. Last year, there were 19,510 farms in the State which had telephones, whereas 10 years previously there were 38,407. Although the Census Bureau does not venture an explanation of this tendency, it probably is due to the increased number of automobiles.

Last year, 6,459 Alabama farms reported that the dwellings were lighted by electricity. In 1920, the number with this facility was 8,345. The number of farms in the State having water piped into the dwellings was 5,182, contrasted with 2,987 in 1920.

Arkansas.

Agriculture - 1931

Condition of

SCOTT BOND ONCE WORTH HALF MILL'N NOW BANKRUPT

Widow

1-30-31

Washington D.C.

Bought $12,000 Worth o Liberty Bonds, Now Appealing for Aid

Once a wealthy farmer able to write his check for a quarter of a million dollars and have it honored, Scott Bond of Madison, Arkansas, is now a bankrupt, he disclosed in a letter to Senator T. H. Caraway, Democrat, of Arkansas, appealing for relief for drought sufferers in that State.

After reading Bond's letter to the Senate last Saturday, Senator Caraway made the remark that "If those who are holding up relief will not hear the white people, at least those who have posed as the liberators and protectors of the Negro race ought to hear the cry of an old ex-slave who has devoted all of his life to producing wealth and asks now only to be permitted to live. They ought at least to let him have some relief."

Bond's letter addressed to Senator Caraway is as follows:

"Dear Sir: I am Scott Bond, of Madison, Ark., a Republican. I did not vote for you, but when you took your oath of office you promised to take care of all the people in Arkansas in any way that you could.

"Now, Mr. Caraway, I trust that you will make a brief survey of the State of Arkansas and see the conditions of the needy people and starving stock. I am sure that you would not rest until something is done to help us in some way.

"I am sure, Mr. Caraway, that you would not suffer the Congress of the United States and others to send aid to other countries and we, the taxpayers, starve.

"When I was able I would aid suffering humanity in every way possible. I would send hundreds of dollars to the Red Cross and I bought $12,000 Liberty bonds; however, since that time I been forced into bankruptcy.

"I am an old ex-salve, Mr. Caraway, 78 years old. Please let me hear from you at as early date as possible as to whether we are to expect aid."

NASHVILLE, TENN.
BANNER
FEB 21 1931

MERIT IN ARKANSAS' TWO-POINT PROGRAM

The circumstance that Arkansas was the hardest hit of all the score of states that suffered from the drouth last year imparted to the determined efforts of Senator Robinson to secure Federal relief for the stricken territory a deeper note of interest than would otherwise have attended his efforts. But the clear vision of civic leadership of the commonwealth realized the imperative need of summoning into action constructive forces that would stimulate agriculture, the basic industry of the state and place it upon a basis of where it could more confidently encounter any adverse condition which the future might witness.

That the State had devoted too much attention to cotton and had neglected to diversify, has long been realized to be a mistaken policy. The farm leaders of the State for several months have been busily preaching the doctrine of diversification, and, it appears, with excellent results.

In a survey of conditions, the New York Times finds that the "two-point" program urged by the farm leaders is being adopted.

"It contemplates using half of the acreage now devoted to cotton and corn for another purpose. This is to grow food for the family and the livestock; fodder, meat, dairy products, garden truck, eggs and fruit. While the Red Cross was working, and the farm agents were holding meetings, the rain was falling on Arkansas, bringing another hopeful sign to the surface. It is that the overwhelming agricultural aspect of Arkansas will make its recovery more rapid than if it were an industrial State and its chief manufacturers had collapsed. For nature moves in a steady cycle, mostly benevolent. And crops are burgeoning while the blight of the summer, fall and half-winter moves more and more into the past."

The Times further observes that because Arkansas suffered more than any state by the drouth; "because its Senators have been highly audible in the efforts to obtain Government relief; because some farmers marched into a town and demanded food—Arkansas has had most of the publicity of calamity. But its people are finding occasion now to point out that of the hundreds of thousands of destitute farm families, a great proportion are Negroes whose normal condition is not exactly prosperous. And from every correspondent who visits or lives in the State comes continuous reports of a self-sacrificing neighborliness, extending help to black and white alike, which is typically American and should banish fears about future dependence on a "dole." In the present campaign for "self-sufficing," diversified farming, the State university is taking the lead, as it would in the richest and most self-dependent state in the Corn Belt. The question: "What's the matter with Arkansas?" can be met with reply: "Nothing permanent, thank you."

The two-point program is worthy of attention not only in Arkansas, but in every state in the South. Tennessee has made much advance in diversification, but needs to make more.

Arkansas May Limit Acreage

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Oct. 7.—(AP)—Bills embodying both the Texas and Louisiana cotton plans were introduced along with others bearing upon cotton and an investigation of the State Highway Department as the Arkansas Legislature opened its special session today.

10-7-31

The Louisiana plan, which would prohibit the growing of any cotton in 1932, was offered in both houses and the Texas plan was introduced in the House at the afternoon session while the Senate met tonight to receive it.

The House meanwhile debated and defeated a resolution authorizing pay and mileage for members, a majority of whom previously had agreed to serve without [illegible] the State.

Other cotton measures introduced included one in the Senate to prohibit the growing of cotton on State prison farms next year and one in the House to prohibit the buying or selling of cotton at less than three and a half cents a pound and of cotton seed at less than $15 a ton.

Two measures for extending the authority of the State Highway Audit Commission to enable it to investigate as well as audit the Highway Department which has expended approximately $100,000,000 in the past five years, were introduced in the House.

Agriculture - 1931

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WHITE AND NEGRO FARMERS UNITE TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM HUNGER DEATH

Daily Worker 1-5-31

New York, N.Y.

Merchants and Red Cross Forced to Distribute Groceries to Each Family

Starving Farmers Refuse To Be Pacified by Fine Phrases of Local Shyster Lawyer

Poor Farmers Followed Militant Policy of United Farmers League

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 4.—Exposing the lie of Hoover that the Red Cross was giving "adequate" relief to the farmers stricken by the drought, more than 500 farmers and their wives stormed the business section of the town of England, Arkansas, a town of about 2,000 population, demanding food for their starving families and threatening to take it if denied. While most of the farmers were white, Negro farmers also took part, showing that the unity of the poor, both black and white, is a fact and an aid in the struggle.

The mass action was successful. Crowding into the stores, they demanded food so threateningly that the frightened merchants held a conference, wired to the state Red Cross headquarters here at Little Rock, which authorized under this pressure the distribution of a stingy amount to each family of $2.75 worth of groceries.

While this was going on a local shyster lawyer, George E. Morris, called the demonstrating farmers to a meeting in the street, where he tried to "pacify" them with a speech. But he was constantly howled down with cries:

"Our children are crying for food and we are going to get it! We're not going to let our children starve! We want food and want it now!"

What little resources some farmers might have had went up in smoke with the bankruptcy of the local bank recently. The local Red Cross agent, compelled to distribute the little food allowed, had the gall to say that he "recognized some among the farmers as imposters," but no such lie can cover up the fact that the mass of farmers and their families are literally starving.

Daily Worker 1-5-31

Even the lawyer who tried to keep them from forcibly confiscating the food from the stores admitted that they were "too hungry to listen to speeches." But all he advocates is that merchants move their goods to other towns or "mount machine guns on their stores."

1-5-31

Moving goods to other towns, however, is futile, as Charles L. Thompson of the Pulaski County Red Cross and agent of the State Drought Relief Committee, says he "fears similar trouble in other sections of Arkansas."

New York Daily Worker

The demonstration was notable as the first instance in which masses of poor farmers have followed the policies of the United Farmers League, whose headquarters are at New York Mills, Minnesota. Both Negro and white farmers united to

Arkansas.

action and used the power of mass action to compel the granting of their demands.

The demonstration also exposes the cynical hypocrisy of Hoover's administration, in restricting "farm relief" to loans to rich farmers to buy seed and feed for animals, and opposing as a "dangerous precedent" the giving of "food to human beings." Local capitalists are panic stricken at the prospect that the farmers will return when the miserable bit of food given them Saturday is exhausted.

NEW YORK SUN

JAN 9 - 1931

POLITICIANS CRY LOUDEST FOR U.S. AID IN ARKANSAS

Some Complaint Is Heard From Real Sufferers About Credits.

PECULIAR CONDITIONS FACED

Lack of Crop Diversification in East Part of State Largely to Blame for Trouble.

By OWEN L. SCOTT.

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.

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PINE BLUFF, Ark., Jan. 9.—With widespread evidence of hardship caused by the unprecedented drought of last summer and by the calamitous slump in the price of cotton since then, still there is little vocal indication in Arkansas that any but politicians are clamoring for Federal funds with which to buy food for the affected population.

Some complaint is heard of the meagerness of Red Cross credits, but no claim is made that any are going hungry who make known their wants and are found upon investigation—made under the direction of eighteen Red Cross staff workers in the State—to be entitled to help. This relief agency says that it can continue to provide food until May. Before that time road building and other sources of employment will be opened, and by April early food crops can be providing subsistence.

What appears to have occurred in this plantation country is a temporary breakdown in a system of agriculture—somewhat feudal in its form, and, except in labor principle, little changed from pre-civil war days. Out of it may come a small agricultural revolution which would end the possibility of another food famine in a land of almost unlimited fertility and mild climate.

The State is divided in half roughly by the Missouri Pacific Railroad. East of the line is the plantation country—the black belt—where cotton is the one and only crop of importance and where the land owners farm for money. West of the railroad is the hill country. There the land owners, principally small farmers, farm for a living. They raise garden stuff, keep a few chickens, a hog or two and maybe a cow. When the drought struck them, it ruined their crops, but they had reserves to fall back upon.

A County Judge's Report.

Their situation was summed up by County Judge R. L. Berry of Marion county—and in Arkansas hill country the county judge is czar—who reported conditions in his area as follows:

"Well, we've got a little corn. There is some sorghum and we have a few potatoes. And while the squirrel crop is a bit short this year, a few hogs are running wild in the woods and if you folks will give us ammunition, we'll make out."

While the judge did not mention it, this section also prides itself on the quality of its squirrel liquor, which still commands a market.

Things are different in the plantation section. There they have only cotton, and people can't eat cotton. Normally very little food is raised, much to the amazement of any one acquainted with farming in other sections. Instead it is bought at the store—on credit. In the fall when the cotton is sold the bills are paid.

Many "Share Croppers."

Except for the big land owners, the population is made up in large measure of poor white "croppers" who farm on shares, and Negro tenants. Negroes on the plantations normally live a life of bare subsistence. Their dry goods box shanty homes—often without windows—strike a Northerner as grotesque. The planter frequently has large numbers of colored families on his place, who devote themselves solely to the cotton crop. It is an exception to see a garden spot, or a chicken coop or a shed for live stock. Plantation owners consider it their first obligation to feed their Negro families—who very often [illegible] in debt to them—on store food, [illegible] credit difficulties have [illegible]h

credit usually supplied by the land owner. The land owner in turn gets his credit from the bank. In the past when he would borrow the banker would demand to know how many acres of cotton he intended to plant. Cotton was considered a sure profit crop and banks would insist often on what amounted to a one crop program. The land owner in turn would insist similarly on a cotton program for his tenant. Diversification was discouraged.

Now a club is provided to change that. County agents estimate that over 114,000 farm families are going to require financing for this year's crop through outside funds. The Federal Government, in the drought relief bill now before Congress, provides money to be loaned for this purpose. The loans will be secured by a lien on this year's crop, taking precedence over other obligations.

Under the plan worked out for distribution of this money in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, borrowing farmers can be forced to diversify. The farmer seeking a loan will have to go to his county agricultural agent for an application blank. On this he will be required to state what he proposes to plant, how much of each crop and the estimated cost. A township committee then will pass on the application. After that it will go to a county committee for approval, made up of one farmer, one banker and one merchant. From this committee it will go to the field office at Memphis, which has final authority based on a final investigation by a district field agent.

By using this club, agricultural authorities expect to be able to force cotton belt farmers, at least, to grow some food crops. Besides, plantation owners, finding their Negro families faced with hunger, have vowed hereafter to produce food on their places. They assert a determination not to be caught again in a situation where they cannot provide food.

In the meantime, developments are occurring which shortly will mitigate the suffering in this area. On January 21, bids for several millions of dollars worth of highway construction will be let. Local labor is to be favored. In addition, railroads, although supplied for 1931 with all required cross ties, still are buying and in this way providing some work. Early in March the farmers can plant some fast growing food crops and before many months the troubles of a farming section without food. can be lightened.

Florida.

Agriculture - 1931
Condition of.

Pratville, Ala., Progress
Thursday, March 26, 1931

Hardee County, Florida, alone, sold $42,000 worth of strawberries last week. Autauga county farmers, especialy those of the Black Belt, seem afraid to go into anything except cotton. They should have at least 400 acres in strawberries, 500 acres in peaches, and 4,000 acres in other crops than cotton and corn. The Black Belt did not raise last year corn enough to feed stock until Christmas. Ordinarily it does not raise corn enough to feed until March 1st. It must get out of the old rut of raising little and lending negroes two dollars for every one dollar it gets back.

With all the garden seed obtained by the negroes of the Black Belt from the Red Cross and in other ways, if they do not have good gardens this year they should quit. They have the garden seed and the opportunity if they will only put forth the effort. However, with the great majority of them it is always too hot, too dry, too cold, or something happens to keep them from making a success with their garden.

Send your subscription in to The Progress. You cannot afford to be without your county paper.

Agriculture-1931
& Condition of.

General

NEW YORK TIMES

FEB 2 1931

DROUGHT LOSSES BURDEN THE SOUTH

With Many Bank Failures, People Face Worst Financial Plight Since the '60s.

SOME STATES FACE DEFICITS

Conservative Business Men See Need of Many Reforms to Regain Prosperity.

SUFFERING IS WIDESPREAD

Hot Springs an Oasis of Luxury and Plenty in Arkansas, Where Hunger Abounds.

By RUSSELL OWEN.

Special to The New York Times.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 1.—The gricultural and cotton planting outh is facing its greatest crisis ince the Civil War. The problems f reconstruction were no greater han today face the business men, planters and legislators of the Mississippi Valley States. How long it will take these States to solve their financial and agricultural problems which have been precipitated by the drought nobody will attempt to guess, but it is obvious that the South faces a long and perhaps desperate struggle to emerge from its present bankruptcy.

Many of the States themselves are in as great difficulties as the planters and small farmers. How to obtain taxes from a country which has no money is a problem that would vex a Roman Emperor. The plight of Arkansas, which is trying to issue bonds for relief—bonds which nobody will buy because part of the last issue is still unsold—is not unusual. There are other States also which face deficits, and whose credit is impaired by the widespread collapse of the Cotton Belt and its consequent effect on the banks and business. The most conservative bankers and business men see ahead a long road to travel and many reforms in banking and the agricultural system before prosperity again returns to the South.

Poverty in the Hill Country.

There are certain sections of the South which have always been poor and probably always will be. The hill country, where there has been much suffering, has never had much more than the Red Cross has recently given. Meal and sowbelly are the staples of diet of those who live there; they would not know what to do with a can of tomatoes if they had one. In fact, they have been discovered trying to trade such little appreciated delicacies for meal.

The Negro also is living as well on the Red Cross food as he usually lives in normally hard times. That is why one hears here constantly the complaint that "the Red Cross is freeing the Negro," based on the theory that he will not work while he can get something for nothing.

But the present relief work goes far beyond these people. It reaches families which never before have had to ask for help. There are more and more of them being disclosed all the time, and in the last few days over 130,000 more persons in Arkansas alone have been added to the lists of needy, making at least 35 per cent of the population of the State now living on Red Cross bounty.

When it is considered that almost all of this relief work is being done in the rural districts it can be realized how widespread is the suffering outside the cities, and that it is a direct result of the one-crop system can be easily seen when one occasionally comes across a comparatively prosperous family who raise some of their own food.

An Oasis in a Desert.

On a little side road near Wynne, which is in one of the most severely affected counties of the State, is a farm run by a father and his four daughters. The girls were in the yard milking cows. They were healthy, well clothed and well fed. The enclosure was full of cows, pigs, turkeys, ducks and in a pasture beyond a few horses were grazing. In a small barn was a mow full of hay, and in another building some corn. In the midst of adversity they were almost wealthy by comparison with their neighbors. This farmer raised food for himself and his family, and put what land there was left into cotton and other crops.

But the crop problem is only a part of what must be solved by the people of Arkansas, and also, it is said, by those of Tennessee, Mississippi and other Southern States. The financial methods which led to the failure of more than 150 banks in this State alone, as well as numerous failures in neighboring States, must not be repeated, business men say, if the South is to avoid some similar disaster in the future.

Many a planter who in other periods of hard times has carried his tenants until the new crop without difficulty finds himself this year almost insolvent, without funds, and forced to let the Red Cross feed his people. His money has been tied up or lost in some of the numerous bank failures which have left some counties without a single operating bank.

Hope Lies in Garden Crops.

The only hope for food relief except from the Red Cross in the immediate future lies in the proposed distribution of seed packages to farmers this month. These seeds will be for the raising of garden produce, scaled so that something will be coming up every two weeks in sufficient quantity to provide plenty of food for a large family. If the weather permits the first planting by Feb. 15 it is believed that some time in March a little garden food will be available. For many months this Winter many families lived on turnips, seed for which was provided by the Red Cross last year.

There is probably only one place in this State where luxury, incongruous in the midst of the famine, may be found. That is in Hot Springs, now at the height of its season. The hotels are full, the clubs are busy, so busy indeed that the Legislature is wrought up about charges of gambling. Peacocks strut on the terraces. The shops selling souvenirs are in full swing, and at night there are auctions in the "Oriental bazaars" where everything from stuffed Mexican birds to imitation Persian rugs are sold.

Expensive cars roll through the streets, conveying well-dressed men and women. They look curiously at the tattered and thin-cheeked men and women who come in from the hills for relief.

Old mules, their ribs sticking out, haul dilapidated wagons up to the City Hall, where requisitions for food are issued. It was quite a problem to find a place where these people could be cared for; nobody wanted to give the use of an empty shop or store in the part of the city where they could be always a reminder that only a few miles out there were hunger and distress. So a room in the City Hall had to be used.

Criticism of the Red Cross for the quantity and cheap prices of food issued in the present situation has led members of the organization here to explain that the selection of food is left entirely to the local committees, which provides that to which the people of their section are accustomed. And it is a fact that despite the food shortage, food was never cheaper, because there is no money with which to buy it and wholesalers and merchants will sell it for what they can get.

Some merchants and wholesalers have been known to take anything which could be exchanged for food and sold elsewhere so as to move their stocks. More expensive foods also are not welcomed in some districts, where simple, cheap foods which have always been staple, foods that will "stick to the ribs," are preferred. There are more contradictions in this drought area than can be imagined by any one who has not visited it.

AT THE WHEEL

By JAMES O. SPEARING

Farmers in the Mud.

IN the thirty-year period between 1900 and 1930, 7,000,000 acres of land in the State of New York increased more than $100,000,000 in value. In the same period 21,000,000 acres decreased $315,000,000 in value. These figures are based on a survey made by J. L. Tennant for Cornell University, and the explanation, according to what seems to be a consensus of opinion, lies in the fact that the 7,000,000 more valuable acres are touched by improved roads while the 21,000,000 less valuable acres can be reached by dirt roads only.

This is the picture presented in a recent bulletin issued by the Oneida County Publicity Bureau and various newspapers published in the farming sections of the State. While New York has been going ahead with the development of an extensive State highway system, many farms have remained separated from their natural markets by long stretches of mud. This has not happened because of willful neglect by the State but because the back-country roads that reach the farms are not included in the State highway system, and cannot be included under the present distribution of road building authority.

3-22-31

There is a story behind all this. It is set forth in a statement issued by W. Pierrepont White, chairman of the Oneida County Publicity Bureau. In the beginning, says Mr. White, roads were built and maintained under the "labor system," by which "each abutting owner on each mile of highway was constantly subject to the authority of the 'path master,' who ordered him, his horses, his wagons, tools and men" to come out and work on the road whenever building or maintenance was necessary.

Some thirty years ago this "labor system" was recognized as obsolete, and the State took over the building and maintenance of main roads. Towns were enabled to put one-tenth of their mileage into the State system, and much improvement was accomplished. Counties also undertook to construct and maintain roads, with the result that paved highways were soon connecting the more populous centres of town and rural life.

Newyork, N.Y.

But this development by no means covered the State. It was concentrated on the 7,000,000 acres which have increased in value as a result, says Mr. White, and it left the 21,000,000 acres out in the cold—and the mud. The roads intended to serve these 21,000,000 acres are under the jurisdiction of township authorities, of which there are 633 in the State. And this, apparently, is where the trouble lies. Roads cannot be economically built and adequately maintained if the job is divided among 633 political organizations. Each organization is concerned with only the short stretches of road within its township boundaries. A patch here and a fill there is all that it can attend to. Waste, of course, is inevitable. There is no systematic planning, no equitable distribution of men, materials and equipment, no permanent improvement on a State-wide scale.

* * *

It is this "feudal system" that is to blame, according to Mr. White. He does not question the integrity of the various town boards, and he offers as evidence that there is no lack of money the fact that an aggregate of $35,000,000 a year is being spent on [illegible] of military security with Japan. The daily bread for her 70,000,000 depends upon keeping open the markets and the sources of raw material on the neighboring continent. Japan would welcome the expansion of those markets and sources to the point of affluence for each of China's millions. The Japanese would share in the new prosperity and are eager to further it.

Delicate Position of Japan.

This is no easy task, with a super sensitive Chinese nationalism ever ready to interpret any Japanese move as aggression, and a Russia equally ready to intervene at any point and in any manner calculated to embarrass capitalistic and "imperialistic" Japan. Tokyo must find a way [illegible] year. What vast possibilities would be opened to the world if these three peoples could be enabled to trade up to the $66 per capita average for the other half of the world's population! How readily would unemployment disappear from the face of the earth with the resultant leap of world trade from $68,000,000,000 to $132,000,000,000. An increase of $64,000,000,000—a whole year's income for the entire United States, even in flush times!

It is there that the weight of the inert half of the world is felt. Our prosperity has fed upon the progressive development of a constantly widening area of economic activity. It may well be that we have reached something in the nature of a nature

India responsible for the existing economic depression. In fact the figures show that they have done as much as or more than their wonted share of the world's trade during the last two years. But, in a larger view, they are responsible for the existence of uncertainties beside which the tariffs and restrictions of the rest of the world shrink int insignificance.

THE RUSSIAN COTTON MENACE

Last year Russia planted 3,000,000 acres of cotton. This year it intends to plan 6,000,000 acres. Furthermore, we are told, Russia plans to use modern machinery and modern methods in its cotton culture. It hopes to grow enough cotton to supply its own spindles.

In commenting upon this unpleasant information, The Marion Times-Standard says:

One need not be an alarmist to foresee that this Russian experiment is a distinct threat to the continuance of the Southern cotton grower. Russia has been one of our best customers for cotton, averaging 350,000 bales annually. Now we appear not only to have lost our Russian market but to face, within a short time, the loss of other foreign markets to Russia herself.

Indeed, it is not inconceivable that our own textile industries may one day find it cheaper to buy Russian or Indian cotton instead of coming to the South to find grist for their mills. India is yet another country that is raising cotton. And both Hindus and Russians, it would appear, can live on less, and accept lower wages, than Americans.

What is the cotton South going to do about it? Manifestly there is nothing we can do to dissuade the Russians and Hindus from growing cotton.

The Marion paper says:

Keep away from cotton. Raise food—garden truck, fruit, livestock, anything that can be eaten—but stay off of cotton. Raise especially for your own needs and sell your surplus for what it will fetch—but stay off of cotton.

Incidentally, okra can be raised under the same conditions as cotton. That fact might well be taken into the account by the farmer who thinks of cotton as the only thing he knows anything about raising. A great deal of the land now customarily sown to cotton could be made to produce okra, for which markets can be found North, South, East and West.

Certainly the farmer in the American cotton belt has got to adjust himself to world facts. In this life we can laugh off everything but facts. They have to be dealt with realistically, or they will deal with us realistically.

The Southern cotton grower has got to meet competition just as the manufacturer and the merchant meets it, or go under. He must either grow it cheaper than the other fellow or grow a better grade, and his cotton must be a surplus crop.

And all concerned must encourage the wider use of cotton and its by-products.

The War Between the States

Agricultural prosperity can be effectively delayed by one state placing a prohibitive tax on the product of another. Retaliation is the next step. The system leads to demoralization and eventual disaster.

South Dakota has placed a 5-cent tax on vegetable shortening. A similar bill is proposed in Wisconsin. Iowa has passed a 3-cent tax bill. One proposed in North Dakota was defeated.

Ohio and Illinois propose to prohibit vegetable shortening in state institutions. South Dakota reveals the character of discrimination by exempting corn oil.

These measures are directed against cotton seed oil. It is exclusively a southern product.

The value of the seed crop to the cotton farmer is 250 million. The chief outlet of seed is oil.

Eighty per cent of cottonseed oil is sold in the form of shortening. One billion two hundred million pounds were consumed in 1930.

States sponsoring this legislation are interested in protecting their dairy and swine products. Their situation is critical.

The situation in the south is critical, too. Fifty per cent of the value of cotton seed goes into oil.

The plights of the western and southern farmer are identical. Over-production, absence of market and production cost in excess of price. The problem will not be solved by the states legislating against each other.

If South Dakota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and other states could lay a prohibitive tariff on the products of other states all would be fine. Provided they were permitted to compete in a free market in other states with the products of those states.

The south is a large consumer of hog lard. Packing house products enjoy a fine market in the south. The same is true of northern dairy products.

The cotton belt is the largest market for northern grain and hay. But the south could not afford the price of northern products if it had no market for its own.

Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia and Alabama could lay a tax of a dollar a bushel on corn and oats. The farmers would be forced to raise their own feed. Cotton production would be curtailed, and that in itself would not be bad. The south could supply its own dairy needs by the same process.

But man cannot live by bread alone, or meat or butter. A state cannot live by itself alone to the exclusion of others. It is not practical. It is not wise.

The south is a cotton country. It needs the northern market for its by-product. The north has its grain, hogs and cows. It needs the southern market for its surplus product.

The problem in the north is Russian wheat. Not southern lard substitutes.

The problem in the south is Egyptian and Indian and Russian cotton. Not northern grain.

This is a poor time for states to start an economic war. War is not profitable. Co-operation will save the situation. Those who win a war often lose more than they win.

FARMING IS SEEN AS THE WAY OUT BY B. F. HUBERT

Urges Back-To-Farm Movement In Address

By CLEVELAND G. ALLEN

NEW YORK, N. Y.—President B. F. Hubert, of the Georgia State College, one of the foremost authorities on agriculture in his address at Teachers College, Columbia University, advocated a back-to-the-farm movement as the ultimate solution of the economic problems facing the Negro in America.

He said that we are educating the American youth away from the farm which is the very backbone of our civilization. The address of Dr. Hubert was one of the series of lectures on Negro education and Race Relations which are being given at Columbia University under the direction of Miss Mable Carney, director of rural education there.

Dr. Hubert told of the large number of Negroes in America who are engaged in farming. He said that since the world war the importance of farming had become more generally recognized. The Negroes of the south are for the most part largely engaged in farming, said the speaker.

In Texas and Virginia alone, he said, there are 54,000 people who operate their farms. He told of the large number of farms that are operated by Negroes in Georgia and said that most of the Negroes who have migrated north have not been those who owned or were engaged in farming.

Speaking further of migration, Dr. Hubert said that all of the Negroes have not left the South. "There are at least 8,000,000 Negroes still in the South," he said, "and a great many Negroes who have left the South are returning. One of the greatest and most urgent needs facing the race at the present time is the preparation of young men and women for agriculture careers. We are not training enough students to engage in modern farming, which is neglecting one of the most important phases of Negro life."

Funds For Education

Dr. Hubert called attention to the revival has taken place in Negro education in the South. He said that in Texas, Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina large appropriations have been made for Negro education.

He told of his plea before the Georgia Legislature for Negro education which resulted in a large appropriation made for the Georgia State College. Dr. Hubert said that there are 8,000,000 people in the South who must depend on agriculture for maintenance and no one is being trained to render service in this direction.

There are 600 vocational teachers in the South, he continued, and only a few of them are properly trained for their work. "Opportunities are better now in the south in Agriculture than ever before," Dr. Hubert added. Since a majority of the Negroes would remain South, their contentment would depend on the decrease in lawlessness and mob violence, he said, and both races can cooperate through agriculture in the south in bringing about a higher standard of living. He gave the farming acreage now owned by Negroes as 13,948, 512.

His Recommendations

Among the recommendations urged by Dr. Hubert were: to make a closer study of Negro land owning communities in the South, find out the facts as to the growth and possibility for extending the areas; select a few going Negro communities as proving stations where theories of management and marketing may be carried out in a practical way.. stimulate a more practical rural education of all the people; redirect the present system in schools and colleges; and to secure for Negroes larger participation in federal bank loans.

Dr. Hubert is now studying for the Doctor's degree at Harvard University. He was educated at Morehouse College. Massachusetts Agriculture College and Minnesota University. He was formerly director of Agriculture at Tuskegee, and was a member of the Haitian Commission. He is also a member of Hoover's Commission on Negro Education and Better Housing. Dr. Hubert is the organizer and secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life.

Agriculture - 1931

General

Condition of

SOUTH "PAYING FOR SIN OF COTTON GIN"

Commercial appeal

Farmer, Banker, Merchant Sharing Lean Days.

1-11-31

PANTRY SHELVES BARE

Cotton at Bottom of Financial Ills, and Leaders See Radical Upheaval in Agriculture Before Industrial Seas Calm.

BY PHILLIP KINSLEY.

From Chicago Tribune Press Bureau.

In a window on Main Street there is a gaudy painting of an incredibly green and beautiful garden, where lions and lambs are playing together and monkeys are swinging by their tails over the heads of Adam and Eve. She is just handing him the apple, across concealing bushes, and the picture is labeled "The First Sin."

Translated into an economic thought this might apply to the stand taken by 12 southerners, who have just collaborated in a book, "I'll Take My Stand," which is a plea for a return in part, at least, to the agrarian tradition of the south. The acceptance of the cotton gin would be the first sin that has led to all the horrors of the industrial age. It has stirred quite a debate through the south, where there has been such a sad record of bank failures and cotton troubles, now being voiced in pleas for governmental relief.

Even Farmers Hungry.

Economic ills have made people stop and think, and while there is little likelihood of any general return to the fine and simple life of the early days, with its genuine culture and broad and tolerant outlook on the world, there is a practical echo of this in the move to make each farmer and plantation owner more self-sustaining in the future.

A peculiar situation exists in this one of the richest alluvial valleys in the world, and in the adjoining hill country, that many farmers are without enough to eat. In Arkansas theer is a genuine need, and the Red Cross activity is to be increased.

"It is pathetic to contemplate," says The Memphis Commercial Appeal today, "that one can travel through this fertile farming section and come upon farm homes yhere there are no chickens in the backyard, no pigs in the pen, no potatoes in the cellar, not even a garden plot. Most farmers in the tristate could have had a winter of comfort and bounty. Pantry shelves ought to be lined with home preserved fruits and vegetables. There should be hams and slabs of meat and old reliable 'sow belly,' called 'pig possom' by elegant folk, hanging from the smokehouse beams. The farmer who has food for his family and feed for his stock this winter is hard to find."

Effect Widespread.

It is agreed by all that a reduction in the cotton acreage in 1931 is imperative, and also that there should be supplementary production of other crops for food and feed production. Farmers, who have depended upon this one crop, and bankers, who have financed them are in the same leaky boat looking toward the same shore of safety for next year. Economic necessity will get results where writers and economists fail, just as politicians may get results where reformers fail.

There is no definite improvement in business conditions in this midsouth section, although it is felt that this is just around the corner with spring.

"I see no signs of improvement yet, but I know it is coming," said Brinkley Snowden, vice president of the Bank of Commerce and Trust Company, today.

"I know of no more resilient people than ours. I have watched them for 60 years. They have gone through almost everything, fire and flood, drouth and panics, and they always come out on top and happy. I don't know how they do it, but they do. Just at present they need government aid in many places, just as much in Tennessee as in Arkansas. I have heard a good deal of talk about it in Washington, but I have not seen any money coming through to them."

"Banking troubles are due to failure of the cotton crop, and low prices," said Paul Dillard, Memphis cotton man and banker.

Trouble Upon Trouble.

"In Mississippi, many a big plantation owner, who has the responsibility of maintaining many negro families, has no idea where his funds are coming from to operate this Spring, pay his taxes and interest. They had not recovered from the flood when the drouth came.

"They do need government aid, but they are afraid of it. They fear the effect on the negroes of free rations, just as in flood times. So long as the government herds and feeds them, they will never go back to work.

"This country will come back. It always has. They are extravagant in high cotton times, but it is amazing how they adapt themselves, what economies in operations they make, during depression.

"Many are now rationing the negroes on a scientific basis. The rations are meal or flour, pork, beans, rice, green or canned vegetables, all on a basis of calories and vitamins. The rations include snuff and tobacco and usually coffee.

"I believe in restricted planting of cotton, but the biggest reduction will come about through inability to finance. A small crop everywhere would be the proper corrective. There is a surplus of nine million bales this year, with a yearly consumption of about 15,000,000."

Mr. Dillard sees n oreturn to the golden age of no machinery, but rather a greater organization in agriculture. Cotton, he said, awaits the invention of the cotton picking machine, on which men have spent fortunes, and the International Harvester Co., about $3,000,000

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution

January 4, 1931

Thinks Back-to-Farm Movement Would End Unemployment in South

BY M. A. BLACKWELL.

Editor-Manager, The Planter, Montgomery, Ala.

Men work to satisfy their wants for food, clothing, shelter, and the good things of life.

In all sections of our country there are many who are deprived of the opportunity thus to work and as a result economic conditions have brought about general unrest among all classes—rich and poor, white and black. We cannot eat, drink and really be merry when our brother is hungry, naked and deprived of the necessities of life. It is not human. But our enlightened self interests demand the concern of all of us for "no one is safe unless all are safe."

A recent study has shown that the large percentage of unemployed is found in the industrial sections. There are reasons for this. First, in these sections the population is greater; second, the majority depend on daily, weekly, or monthly employment for a livelihood.

The percentage of employment in the south is not so large as in some other sections of the country, but it is large enough to be very serious. Just recently the Montgomery Advertiser carried a report showing upward of 600 families in dire need of food, clothing and other necessities of life. This same condition is found in a measure in every urban center in Alabama and for that matter in the south.

It is the opinion of the writer that 75 per cent of unemployment in Alabama and the south can be promptly (immediately) done away with and an abundance of food provided for all around us if we will but man the abandoned farms of Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and then Carolinas with the determination to make a living first and then money. I have never seen an individual on the farm without work to do nor without something to eat if he would work.

Thousands and thousands of acres of land in the south are lying idle while thousands of the unemployed tramp the streets of our cities or our highways from city to city hungry and looking for jobs. It looks as though the two—the unemployed man and the unemployed land should be brought together. Here in the south where the climate is mild food can be grown the year round. Chickens, turkeys, geese, guineas, ducks, hogs—all thrive in this part of the world. Add to these a milch cow, raise corn, hay, peas and make a good year-round garden and two things you will have—a job and something to eat.

The Tenant System.

It is true that there are many on the farms who do not have nor enjoy some of these things; but it is the system and not the farm.

The tenant system of farming has always caused progress on the farm to lag. Last fall I visited the home of a typical tenant family on a large plantation. In this fmily were one woman, her daughter, and a 15-year-old boy who did the plowing. The following were questions I asked and their answers:

How was your crop this year? Very well.

How many bales of cotton did you make? Twelve.

How many bushels of corn did you make? Not any.

How many bushels of peas did you make? Not any.

How many bushels of potatoes did you make? Five.

How much hay did you gather? Not any.

How many chickens do you have? Seven or eight hens.

Do you have a garden? No.

Do you have a cow? No.

Do you have a hog? No.

Here a woman, her daughter and a 15-year-old boy made 12 bales of cotton, which goes to the landlord for rent, fertilizer and supplies, with nothing to live on other than five bushels of potatoes. Is this farming? Is the fault in the farm or in the system? Landowner or tenant?

No landowner should permit a tenant to do such farming on his place. There is nothing left for men for such farms to do but go to public works already over crowded.

The Remedy.

Landlords and tenants throughout the south will have to get together, adopt the plan of "Live-at-Home," and carry it through to the letter. This is the job of the landowner. He is the only person who can get this done. The county agents, teachers of agriculture and other rural workers are helpless when it comes to advice to tenant farmers. It is the job of the agricultural colleges and leaders in agriculture throughout the south to first arouse bankers, landowners and other persons and businesses interested in farm life to the importance of "Living-at-Home" on the farm.

The famous Tuskegee Institute, possibly the greatest agency for rural progress of all classes in America, is doing much along this line through the Negro Farmers' Conference held annually at this institution.

The governor of North Carolina writes: "I would not reflect upon the tenant farmer as an individual. But no county can ever build a great rural civilization where the majority of its crops are produced by people who do not own the land on which they work."

"I have great faith in the agricultural leaders of today and believe that something concrete will come from the fermentation of spirit among farm people. There must something come from it.

"The farmer must make more money. Farming as a business in this state is not a profitable enterprise. We must blame this situation not on the rural citizens so much but rather as a general complaint against the leadership and intelligence of North Carolina.

"The tragedy of North Carolina is that it is annually sending out millions of dollars to other states in exchange for foodstuffs and essentials of life which it ought to raise in its own fields.

"I call upon the people of this community, upon the farmers of this state, to join hands with me to build a culture upon the countryside, a culture that comes from a better income and higher standards of living. And I pledge you that in so far as my power extends I will build a finer agricultural industry among the people of North Carolina, white and black."

Every landowner in the south should see to it that every tenant on his place:

1. Grows a good garden the year around.
2. Keeps a flock of chickens.
3. Has two brood sows.
4. Has a good milch cow.
5. A small orchard.
6. Has sufficient live stock.
7. Grows sufficient corn, hay, peas, potatoes and syrup to supply his family and live stock.
8. Then grow cotton.

Not only will present labor be thus encouraged to stay on the farm but an inviting picture will be presented to the hungry unemployed. If this is done there will be no bread lines in Dixie.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
Fr. February 13, 1931

Hunger—1931

(By A. Robbins, in The N. Y. Nation)

Hickman, Kentucky, January 31

The magnitude of the drought disaster of 1930 is not realized by the country at large, while only those who have observed them at first hand can have any adequate conception of the tragic and pitiable conditions that prevail in the drought area. The American Red Cross is feeding farm families in more than seven hundred counties scattered through a score of States, but the States hardest hit on the whole are Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Oklahoma, with parts of Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia, and Maryland. Final statistics issued by the Weather Bureau indicate that Maryland and Virginia received less rain in 1930 than any of the other States, but crop averages, curiously enough, were lower in Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. It must also be pointed out that the drought is not yet broken in large sections of this area. Ponds, streams, springs, and wells are still dry and thousands of farmers continue to haul water many miles to supply their live stock as well as their families. The subsoil is almost as dry as it was last September before the scattering fall rains relieved conditions a little in most sections; and unless heavy and continuous rains come soon the subsoil will not be moist enough to grow a good crop in 1931. For instance, the Mississippi river has been lower during the past eleven months than it has ever been known to be.

The drought area may be roughly divided into two sections—the cotton and the tobacco sections. In both of these the tenant-farmer and sharecropper systems are largely prevalent. In those sections where more diversified farming is practiced and live stock is a large farm item, the farmers have been able generally to weather the drought on their own resources, but throughout the cotton and tobacco areas large numbers of tenants and sharecroppers, as well as the farm laborers, have been reduced to absolute want and privation. The outsider may find it hard to believe that hundreds of thousands of farm folk can be starving in the United States in this year of grace, 1931, but it is true nevertheless. Stand in front of any Red Cross headquarters in any one of a thousand communities in the drought area and watch the ragged children, blue with cold and undernourishment, who have come to ask for clothing; anxious men, with large families, waiting to receive the disbursing order that means food for another week; frantic women begging for medical aid for babies dying of malnutrition or the many forms of disease that attack the underfed and underclothed.

These people are reduced to such straits not through any fault of their own; they are victims of a system and of the worst drought in recent history. They have weathered lean years; many of them—in the great Mississippi valley—have weathered several flood disasters; but none of them can remember a year like the past one. They have no resources to see them through an unusually bad year because of the system of sharecropping, which is in general vogue in the cotton country and large sections of the tobacco country. A man with a large family is nearly always in debt to his landlord except in unusually good years. In those years, being what he is, he buys a used automobile. By the next spring he has spent all his money and is back expecting the landlord to "furnish" him through the crop season.

The landlords, in most instances, are doing and have done the best they can. The great majority of them are not much better off today than their tenants. Most of them are heavily mortgaged; their credit facilities are strained to the limit. They hardly know how they are to finance a crop in 1931, and it is impossible for them to take care of their people through this winter. The usual time to start furnishing tenants and sharecroppers is from March 15 to April 1. They are allowed so much a month, according to the acreage they cultivate and the size of their families, on which to live until the cotton is picked and ginned, or the tobacco cut, cured, and stripped. At that time the accounts are cast up and the tenant is given his profit on his year's work, if any. This year few tenants were able to pay their debts to the landlord, and few landlords made enough to pay the taxes on their farms and plantations.

Even among the small farmers who own and work their own farms this has been a year of acute distress. The drought ruined their gardens, cut the corn crop in large areas to almost nothing, reduced the hay crop, and hurt their live stock. On small farm after small farm visited by the writer in several States anxious men and women were wondering how they were going to "get by." That is the general expression in the drought area. If they can just "get by" until spring; if they can just "get by" and make another crop; if it will only be a good crop year and if prices will only be a little better so they can get enough ahead by the fall of 1931 to see them through the winter of 1931-32, they will be satisfied. Gone are any thoughts of new clothes, new cars, new radios; the farmers are thinking in terms of food and feed for family and stock.

Cupboards, cellars, and closets that never before have been bare are swept clean this winter. There was little to "put up." The housewife will tell you that the garden was almost a complete failure, that the fruit did not do much, that even nuts and berries were very scarce. But the biggest worry of the average small farmer in the drought area is the problem of feed for his live stock. His cribs and barns are empty in thousands of cases. He is afraid the government feed loans will not be available in time to keep his stock from dying. In some cases the Red Cross is making allowances for feed to keep work stock alive, but the Red Cross does not have the money to go into any extensive feeding program and few people realize the extent of the feed shortage.

Most of these small farmers and better-class tenants are loath to talk about their troubles, or to write to the newspapers or their Congressmen. They have never been in such a predicament before and they are proud. Most of the population in the drought area is of Anglo-Saxon stock.

I have not mentioned the Negroes specifically for the reason that no distinction is made in administration of relief between white and black, just as the drought knows no distinction when it reduced them to want. In the cotton country, of course, a large number of the sharecroppers and farm laborers are Negroes. On the whole, they are a bit more thrifty and shifty, a bit more loath to ask help, than the whites on the same economic level. However, thousands of them are being fed and cared for by the Red Cross.

The Red Cross is doing its best in this great emergency and the country is fortunate in having an organization able to take over the task; for it is a tremendous job—the biggest job the Red Cross has ever tackled in its history. Beside it the task of feeding and caring for the people left destitute by the Mississippi flood of 1927 seems small. The present disaster is much more widespread, involves much more territory and many millions of people. The Red Cross, unfortunately, has not enough trained workers to fill the need. It must rely on local chapter offices to attend to the details of the relief work in their communities, and, naturally, when untrainer workers take over such a task mistakes are made, but so far it appears that the hungry are being fed as fast as possible. The chapters I have seen in operation are doing good jobs, and the thousands of men and women in the hundreds of towns and villages who are giving their time and energy so unselfishly and freely to this work without compensation, without even thought of reward, thanks, or appreciation, deserve the thanks of the nation.

The aid of the Red Cross will tide the drought sufferers over until spring, but the outlook for spring in many sections is none too encouraging to those who know conditions. The drought is not yet broken. Many landlords do not know whether or not they will be financially able to farm their land this year. Much work stock is in too poor condition to work, while in some places many work animals have died. Last but not least, the widespread closing of banks in the drought territory has crippled credit. All these things may make it impossible for thousands of families to earn a living. For those who do find it possible to carry on, future security depends on the yield and price in 1931, and the outlook, for prices at least, does not seem reassuring.

Because the majority of our farmers have been in a bad way for years, even the most prosperous have been hard hit by the drought. The failure of banks in the drought area, largely due to frozen credits, indicates the unsound conditions that prevailed before the drought put the finishing touches on the farmer—as well as on those dependent on the farmer, for conditions in the towns and villages in the drought area are almost as bad as conditions on the farms.

It is probably true that our entire system of farming is wrong and out of date, but it cannot be changed overnight, and meanwhile the drought has brought real suffering, privation, untold tragedy and hardship to hundreds of thousands of American citizens who make their living from the land. Farm relief has been a football of politics and a joke for columnists for years; it is time the nation woke up to the real plight of the farmers, for while farm conditions remain economically unsound the country cannot truly prosper.

Agriculture-1931
Condition of.

General

SHOULD THE NEGRO GO BACK TO THE FARM?

"BACK to the farm" is a slogan frequently employed by those who are interested in colonizing the Negro element of the population on the nation's farms. These who would thus advise the Negro to return to the farm are much wrought up over the crowding of Negroes into the great urban centers of the North and East. It has become a conventional expression now that "the place for the Negro is on the farm," and many well-meaning people are flippantly throwing this into the face of masses of Negroes. A little study and reflection on the part of those who give such advice would probably lead them to second thought before they become too insistent on the Negroes of the cities and towns to return to the farm.

In the first place, it will appear that the country to city trend at the present time is not a Negro movement, but is nation-wide. During the year 1929 there were 1,876,000 persons, all told, who moved into towns and cities, and though this is less than the number of four years ago, statistics will show that the cityward movement is constant and general. Counteracting this, of course, is that other movement observed in the population from town and city toward the farms. In this same year (1929) the total number of persons going from the city to the farms was 1,257,000. This shows a net movement toward the cities of only 619,000 persons during that year.

Statistics concerning Negro migration from the country to the cities, however, reveal that our group in the last ten years have left the farms of the South to the number of at least a million persons, leaving untilled and abandoned 25,000,000 acres of land which were formerly productive. It is a significant social fact that Negroes have lost ground in the field of agriculture to an alarming extent within the last ten years. In this movement of Negroes there has been much sacrifice of possessions in land and other holdings, so as to reduce materially the Negro status as a farmer.

It is said that between the years 1920 and 1925 there was a decrease of 84,000 Negro farmers as against 12,000 white farmers in the southeastern group of States alone. These facts indicate certain phases of a situation which, if changed at all, must be corrected not by abuse of the Negro, nor by trying to instill in the Negro that he is by creation a farmer class. Correction of this trend of Negroes to the city, if made, must be by constructive effort.

Farming requires increasing efficiency in these times. Oftentimes the failure of the Negro to qualify on this basis causes him to leave the farm. Likewise, efficiency in farming, through better methods and machinery, reduces the requirement for farm labor in given instances on a large scale. Fewer persons can do the work. Thus efficient methods and machinery release large numbers of men with no demand for their labors on the farm. Naturally they migrate cityward. Moreover, another general factor is that farming must be made profitable. This is the basis of improvement in agriculture and of advance in the standards of living. When men become intelligent enough to observe that farming does not pay, it is the part of wisdom to seek other employment and other fields, and they usually do.

The distressing factors in the farm situation of the South driving Negroes from the farms to the cities include the one-crop system prevalent everywhere in this section. That crop is either cotton or tobacco for the Negro. Overproduction in these commodities for the past several years has brought on the usual cycle of consequences—lowering of prices, tightening of credit, smaller demands, widespread unemployment, and the lowering of the purchasing power of the consumer—in this case, the farmer.

It is one thing to advise diversified crops and the making of foodstuffs when the Negro is wedged into an economic system which makes it impossible for him to do other than conform to the one-crop system. This system forces upon him the necessity also of buying his food, foodstuffs for his stock and cattle, in addition to all of the other incidentals of his farm life. He is handicapped also by the vicious tenant system which among Negroes has assumed large proportions. This type of farming is a sort of counterpart of the one crop system in its evil effect on the Negro farmer. It inevitably leaves him empty-handed, discouraged, and bereft of self-respect.

The credit system as maintained is one of the most vicious enemies to successful Negro farm life. Dr. T. J. Woofter, Jr., of the University of North Carolina, says: "Most Negro farmers are compelled to depend upon credit, and they have been known to pay as much as thirty-seven per cent. Federal Farm Loan Banks are of little help, because they deal with groups and Negroes are usually barred from white associations, and are not prepared to form their own." Which indicates that even the Government's heralded aid to farmers will hardly be available to Negro farmers for relief of their distressing circumstances. Connected with these same circumstances is the low income accruing to Negro farmers in such States as Georgia, for instance. A careful study has revealed that the annual income of Negro farmers in that State averages as low as $399 in some of the counties.

It is to be noted also that if the Negro is urged to remain on the farm, provision ought to be made for his educational equipment as a farmer. There is not in the whole Southland a tax-supported educational institution for Negroes which gives adequate agricultural education. If the States of the South exhibited good faith toward making agriculture available to the Negro on an efficient and profitable basis it would do for the Negro population what it does for the white population. It would see that the Negro is technically and adequately trained for this type of social endeavor.

It is needless, of course, to refer here to the most patent fact that the Negro farmer must be made secure on the farm in his property and person. It is absolutely useless for anybody to keep hurling into the teeth of Negroes to stay on the farms or to move back to the farms as long as night riders and irresponsible mobs and exploiting landlords are bent on keeping the Negro on the farm by methods of fear and of beatings or intimidation, such as are everywhere prevalent in this section.

Regardless to what anybody says, the human instincts of the Negro rebel against living under an oppressive situation such as these things characterize. When the South changes its policy toward Negro farmers and gives to them the same opportunities that it does to white farmers by way of freedom from fear, relief from exploitation, provision for vocational education, opportunities for credit, and the financing of their crops and the like, the Negro will either return to the farm or cease to leave it in such large numbers and will prove himself the most profitable agricultural group in the nation.

Too Many Cotton Growers; Not Enough Farmers.

The south's cotton troubles and the south's hunger problems may be explained in the main with the statement that there have been too many "cotton growers" and not enough "farmers."

The distinction is easy. A cotton grower is a specialist. He grows only cotton. The farmer grows cotton as a part of his general production program, but he retains the sound, old idea that farming is a mode of living and that his first purpose is to be self-supporting and self-sufficient. And so he grows, in addition to cotton, peas, beans, cabbages and vegetables for his family; corn and hay for his stock. The difference is that the farmer knows how to live. The cotton grower knows only how to raise cotton and he stakes his all on the success or failure of his specialty. In so doing, the cotton grower contributes to the low price and thus to the failure of his system.

Cotton growers and farmers in the drouth-stricken areas are almost on the same footing this year. In many cases the farmers are little or no better off than the cotton growers, for the drouth killed their other crops. But through the years the farmer has had and will have better success and greater happiness than the cotton grower.

In sections where the ravages of the drouth were not costly, there are nevertheless thousands of hungry men, women and children who will claim and perhaps receive, drouth aid from the government and the Red Cross. But in these same sections there may be found a great many others—farmers—who have not been specialists, who have provided against the winter as they always provide. The destitute and the hungry in these sections are victims of cotton, not of drouth.

Cotton is going to continue to be grown in great quantities. While acreage reduction is necessary to the well being of southern agriculture and southern business, that acreage reduction must not be general. It must be cotton acreage reduction and increase of acreage in food and feed crops. Sensible diversification would automatically bring about cotton acreage reduction.

In one respect those missionaries, who have taken it upon themselves during the last few years to convince the south that agriculture is an industry, have wrought harm. They have led the farmer to specialization. They have overlooked the fact that the manufacturer has a market prepared for his product before it is produced. The manufacturer works with full respect for the law of supply and demand. The cotton grower induced to consider his business as industrial, loses sight of the advantage the real industrialist has over him. The cotton grower can govern only supply. He has no way of knowing what the demand for his product will be and no way of arranging ahead to limit his supply to fit demand.

Farming is in a sense an industry. But it is also a mode of living and the farmer must never lose sight of this fact. If every farmer in the mid-south could be taught by an educational program of some sort or by bitter experience that farming is a mode of living and that he must learn how to live in order to be happy, diversification and cotton acreage reduction would come readily.

Evidently some cotton growers have had their lesson and intend to profit by it. It was refreshing and stimulating news that Mr. S. E. Bazemore, Shelby County farmer,

who was the first to get his loan from the government's recently opened seed loan office here, had mapped out a farming program after his disastrous year of cotton growing. Mr. Bazemore plans to plant only eight acres of cotton, 10 acres will be in corn, four in oats, three in soy beans, four in sorghum, six in peas and four and one-half acres in truck. And we predict that by this time next year Mr. Bazemore and others as sensible will have reached the conclusion which all cotton growers must reach—that cotton acreage reduction and diversification are destined to bring the farmer back to his former position of independence, happiness and success.

Millions in the cities have not learned the art of living and doubtless will never learn, for they are promised no way of learning it. The farmer's opportunity to learn how to live is so apparent that the wonder of it is he has lost sight of it.

THE FARM AND THE FARMER

Nothing is more important to the success of our state and community than the proper disposition of our farm lands and the farmer. Farming is the chief industry of the nation. We have too much idle land, and not enough trained farmers on the land now under cultivation.

The little farm and what might be regarded as the little farmer are not given enough concern. This kind of farm and farmer make up a powerful number, but a disorganized number, and, therefore, an unprofitable one.

The program now in vogue by the United States Government and the several farming communities to encourage the little farmer to grow bigger and do better farming is bearing fruit in bringing about organization and respect for the farm as no other agency could possibly do. We need more and better farmers as a means to perpetual prosperity and bringing to normalcy our present economic situation. Reporter

The work of organizing the Negro farmers in Alabama and the South is one of the results of the Farm Bill. The white farmers are pretty generally organized, and in order to get the benefit of the Federal Aid, the Negro farmer must organize. If he is not privileged to organize with the white farmers, then there must be an organization of Negro farmers.

The farm bill should be a boon to the Negro in many large cities to return to his native heath and to the farm. The plan now is to organize the Negro farmer into units and have these units affiliate closely with the units of the white farmer. 2-14-31

We long to see the Southern farmer come into his own again. Those people lured away from the farms by war industries and high wages will not soon find their way back except something takes place to turn the balance in that direction. But, almost anything may be expected to upset the economic equilibrium of America. Birmingham Ala.

The business end of organizing the farmer is in the hand of Mr. T. M. Campbell of Tuskegee Institute. He has wide and varied experiences in the business of farming. His advice should be sought and accepted.

There has been no distinct back to the farm movement in many years. We have often stated that the unemployment situation has no permanent cure which does not involve the tilling of God's waste acres. We note the statement that in the opinion of Virginia and Carolina farmers, the solution of the present depression may be materially helped by a back to the farm movement.

The World War created an abnormal condition in the manufacturing industries and a combination of causes created a subnormal condition in the agricultural industries about the same time. Hordes of people left agricultural pursuits for manufacturing pursuits and, consequently, the markets were supplied with products in super-abundance. Attention has been invited on building and producing and God's acres have gone to waste. The wane of the industrial boom has left the one time farmer high and dry in the city. The land owner rarely tills his own land, the laborer has not had the forethought to buy it and till it for himself. To escape serfdom he fled to the industrial centers; the land grew up in sassafras bushes, briars and scrub pines; depression and machinery have eliminated the demand for his services and there is no revival in farming to lure him back to the acres. But he must eventually go, he must buy a small farm, feed himself and help feed others. The grip of trust which, like an octopus, is threatening the throat of modern industry, will not be broken until God's waste acres are parceled out and tilled. Agriculture is basic and the high cost of living has come because this basic thing has been neglected. There is always something in tilling God's waste acres. A condition in which surplus labor and waste land meet on terms of mutual interest would be a happy step in the solution of the problem of unemployment and increased small farm ownership, coupled with intense culture, would be a permanent cure for industrial depressions.

THE FACTORY FARM

Two kinds of farms are battling for supremacy in this period of rapid economic change:

The factory farm. Agriculture 5-1-31

The family farm.

The factory farm's objective is profit for the owners. Grand Rapids, Mich.

The family farm's objective is subsistence for family. Atlanta

In America and in Russia the factory farm is the object of extensive experimentation.

Henry Ford and Henry Mencken join in poking fun at the floundering inefficiencies of the family farm.

They point out how much more easily and cheaply the nation could be fed by vast factory farms supervised by industrial managerial genius.

As a cold engineering problem, the Stalins, the Fords and the Menckens are obviously right.

But before we undertake to factoryize the farms of America, we would do well to consider the social implications of a nation denuded of family farms.

A vast factory farm in America or in Russia bears no relation to the family as a social unit or to the countryside as a social setting.

It is run as a factory is run, and when it is not in actual production season can be watched by a few men as a few night watchmen patrol the grounds of a factory.

Factoryizing the farms of a nation means transforming the entire national life into a city life.

All problems will then become urban problems.

Are we yet in a position to absorb in the economic life of our cities the, at least, seasonal inrush of erstwhile countrymen and countrywomen that would follow the turning of our farms into factories?

Are we yet ready to say farming is not a way of life as well as a way of making a living?

I think America will do well to study rural Denmark while it is studying rural Russia or following too freely the guidance of bankers who, with mortgaged acres falling into their laps, have to resort to large-scale farming to try to salvage their investment.

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Tea Successfully Raised in South More Than a Hundred Years Ago

Constitution 5-23-31 Atlanta, Ga.

BY GLADSTONE WILLIAMS.

WASHINGTON, May 30.—Dusty files of the United States department of agriculture tell the interesting story of efforts made more than 80 years ago to establish in Georgia a new agricultural industry based on the growing of tea transplanted from China and other far-eastern production centers.

While the experiments were abandoned for one reason or another they are shown to have been successful enough to establish the suitability of Georgia soils for tea culture and even now are expected to give rise to an agitation for expenditures by the federal government for further experimental work.

Figures obtained from the department of commerce today show that tea imports into the United States last year amounted to 84,926,220 pounds valued at $22,594,645, or an average of 26.6 cents per pound import price.

It is not suggested for the moment that the opportunity is open for Georgia and other southern states to engage in extensive tea culture operations on a sufficient commercial scale to supply the American demand, but the early departmental experiments point to the possibility of southern farmers at least producing enough of the popular beverage to supply local demands. Some guidance and stimulation of American efforts, however, would necessarily have to come from the federal or state governments in the form of experiment stations.

Grown in Georgia in 1850.

Department of agriculture files reveal that the first tea garden was successfully planted in the United States more than 120 years ago by the French botanist, Michaux. The planting was made at the old Middleton Barony on the Ashley river, about 15 miles from Charleston, S. C. Other experiments were conducted in Georgia as early as 1850, a Dr. Jones having planted tea in Liberty county in that year. The Jones planting was later bought by the government in 1880 and a Mr. John Jackson, who had been a tea planter in India for 14 years, was employed to carry on experiments to test the feasibility of growing and manufacturing tea in this country.

Still later 200 acres of land near Summerville, S. C., were leased for 20 years to carry on further experiments. Seed was imported from Japan, China and India and was also collected from the plants then surviving in the United States. A small area was planted, but before the plants had a chance to make much growth the then commissioner of agriculture, William G. Le Duc, was succeeded by Commissioner George B. Loring, who thought it best, because of the illness of Mr. Jackson and for other reasons, to abandon the enterprise.

Since then, however, the cultivation of tea on a commercial scale has been "practically demonstrated," in co-operation with the bureau of plant industry, by a Dr. Charles U. Shepard at what were known as Pinehurst tea gardens near Summerville, S. C.

In discussing the experiments, George F. Mitchell, a former scientific assistant in tea culture investigations for the department of agriculture, said recently:

"Although the distribution of the many plants and the establishment of the many home tea gardens in the south were steps toward encouraging the people to manufacture their own tea, these gardens soon died through lack of interest, because the important point of teaching the growers how to pluck and make the leaves into tea had been neglected.

"Experiments," he added, "were conducted during the summer of 1905 with the view of developing a simple process by which both green and black teas can be made successfully by any intelligent person with only such utensils as are found in every kitchen. These experiments indicate very strongly that the results sought can be accomplished and that farmers and others who have enough garden space to grow the plants for use or ornamental purposes can with very slight expense and trouble make enough tea for their home consumption.

"It is a significant fact that much of the tea grown in China is planted in the corners and waste places of farms."

Climate Suitable.

The climate of the southern and gulf states is in general admirably adapted to the cultivation of the tea plant, according to the former department expert, who added that "a well-drained, friable, and easily penetrable clay loam or sandy loam containing a large amount of organic matter is best suited to the cultivation of the plant."

Production on the several tracts of land devoted to the experimental operations in the south ranged from 250 to more than 500 pounds of dried tea per acre, it was shown.

Department officials revealed that only recently, just a month or two ago, an Englishman by the name of Hill, who has been engaged in tea

of areas, that tea culture can be made successful in the south. As one of the experiments showed, 50 tea plants set out in waste places will yield enough dried tea to provide a cup of tea a day for every day in the year to a family of nine.

Agriculture-1931

Coalition of.

BACK TO THE FARM.

A "back-to-the-farm movement from the industrial centers has reduced unemployment one half in the commonwealth of Indiana. John H. Hewitt, secretary the state's unemployment commission is responsible for the welcome statement.

According to this authority, the number of unemployed in Indiana at the present time is approximately 100,000. Last winter the number of idle workers was 200,000.

"The movement from industrial centers to rural communities," said Mr. Hewitt, "is as great as the trend from farm to cities when high wages prevailed during the war."

Many townships and counties throughout the state, we are told, have been profitably affected by the back-to-the-farm movement."

To the willingness of industrial workers to share in the over-production that farm bureau officials have been complaining about is attributed the great trend from cities back to the farms.

This move on the part of the people of the state of Indiana is a praiseworthy one. It is very much in keeping with the reputed progressive Hoosier way of doing things.

That it will make for easing the stagnated industrial situation throughout Indiana there can be no doubt whatever. As every one knows, hundreds of cures for unemployment have been made and are still being offered.

Involved in all the suggested plans is the single object of finding work for the people. For it is only by so doing can a solution of the most stubborn of the nation's present economic problems be solved. Keen competition, cruel privations, consequent starvation is known to be the positive portion of the jobless city dweller. All this is practically unknown to inhabitants of rural communities. This being the case, the back-to-the-farm movement is clearly among the most logical of the steps advocated to fight against unemployment and its consequences—It is a splendid example of which the entire country should take note.

General

Judge John C. Anderson Pleads For Greater Loyalty To Cotton

By HON. JOHN C. ANDERSON
Chief Justice Supreme Court of Alabama

Editor The Advertiser:

I enclose copy from "The United States Daily" of an article by Mr. Cheatham of the "Bureau of Agricultural Economics," and think a reproduction of same should be of the greatest interest to your readers as everyone in the State is interested, directly or indirectly in cotton. I hope that each of your subscribers read said article.

I have been profoundly impressed with the following statement:

"Significant changes in the utilization of cotton occurred during the period from 1919 to 1928, not only in the number of new uses and extension of familiar uses, but in the proportion of cotton devoted to clothing and household uses, and that devoted to industry. In 1919, domestic mills consumed 6,000,000 bales, 50 per cent of which went into clothing, 16 per cent into articles for household use and 34 per cent into industry; in other words, about two-thirds went into clothing and household uses and one-third to industrial uses. By 1928 there had developed this change; clothing and household uses consumed only 35 per cent of the cotton consumed by American mills, whereas industrial uses accounted for 65 per cent."

Just think of it, for the last decade the consumption for industry has increased 100 per cent, while there has been a decrease of 50 per cent of what went into clothing and household uses. In other words, had the consumption for domestic purposes kept pace with the use for industries, or even maintained its status of ten years ago, instead of having an enormous surplus and 9-cent cotton, we would have but a small surplus and probably 15-cent cotton.

This is the time for every community to follow the example of the young women of Guntersville and a few communities in South Carolina and organize "Loyalty to Cotton Clubs."

We need no prophet to assure us that a greater consumption will be more advantageous to the South than a greater production.

June 30, 1931.

(Inclosure)

Cotton has been known to the world for many centuries. When it was first used is not known. That event probably belongs to the era referred to as prehistoric. The earliest known mention of cotton in literature is in a "Rig Veda Hymn," composed about 1,500 B. C When Columbus discovered America he found cotton growing on this continent; and the Aztecs are famed for their beautiful fabrics, some of which have been preserved from their earlier civilization.

* * * *

History attributes the earliest culture of flax to Egypt; of sheep to the mountain ranges of Asia; of the silkworm to China; and of cotton, to India and America. Cotton possesses certain valuable physical and chemical qualities, such as strength, elasticity, high tenacity, and excellent affinity for dyes. The cotton fiber is little affected, as a rule, by deterioration in storage, nor do cotton fabrics seriously "yellow" in service. These qualities, together with the comparatively low purchase price of cotton goods, have placed it first in importance among textile fibers with respect to the quantity used.

The world's annual crop in 1929 was approximately three and one-half times that of wool, eight and one-half times that of flax, 31 times that of rayon, and 118 times that of silk.

Manufacturers have for many years attempted to increase the consumption of their goods by finding new markets for their products, but only in recent years has attention been called to the possibility of increasing the consumption of cotton as one means of agricultural betterment. The large crops of 1925 and 1926 combined to create an acute supply situation which impressed upon those in the cotton industry the need for expanded outlets for cotton.

In discussing the matter of increased utilization of cotton as an aid to agriculture, it is not meant to suggest that there has been a decrease in the average quantities of cotton consumed annually during the past quarter of a century. On the contrary, the per capita consumption has increased during that period.

The problem of balancing production with consumption is being attacked at several points. Efforts to bring about acreage adjustments in response to the market outlook and efforts at surplus control operating from the side of supply, both contribute to this end. The effort to increase consumption by discovering opportunities for the advantageous use of cotton and adaptation of cotton products to specific uses need therefore to be recognized as being of equal importance and desirability with the control of production and distribution.

Cotton's security against competition rests in finding those uses for which it is best suited and most economical.

This may be accomplished by experimentation and research by private and public agencies. Research along the lines indicated is now being conducted by the United States Departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

In the Department of Agriculture we have projected three lines of activity; two of these are of a fundamental nature designed to provide information which is basic to further intelligent effort, namely:

* * * *

1. Cotton demand, trends, changes and causes, which include studies to determine the consumption of each kind of cotton by the different countries. This part of the research program is planned with a view to discovering as nearly as possible the trends in foreign consumption of American cotton, and to learning in which countries American cotton is meeting competition with other cottons. Studies are also under way to determine the trends in the consumption of cotton as compared with other important fibers, the relative positions of each, and their probable future relationship.

2. Quality of cotton consumed in terms of grade and staple and the listing of the fabrics and uses into which the qualities of cotton enter.

3. Adaptation of cotton to new and extended uses, which includes technological studies involving the designing of fabrics most suitable and economical for different uses, with the idea of extending present uses and finding new uses for cotton.

The movement to extend the present uses for cotton and to find new uses, had its inception in the belief that one of the ways to the adjustment of the consumption of cotton to production is to increase the demand for cotton goods.

The work of cataloging the uses of which cotton is now put was begun in the Department of Agriculture during the Summer of 1926. Early in 1927 this work had made considerable progress, and a preliminary report entitled "A Partial List of Uses of American Raw Cotton" was issued. During the Sixty-ninth Congress, legislation was enacted which authorized and directed the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce to conduct scientific research relating to the present uses and of discovering new uses.

Shortly before this legislation was enacted, the Cotton Textile Institute, Inc., formed its new uses section. Members of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, together with representatives of this new uses section, met and formed what is now known as the "new uses committee." The purpose of this committee is to coordinate and to promote the work of extending the present uses and the discovery of new uses.

The huge crops of 1925 and 1926 stimulated the search for new uses and extension of old uses for cotton. This year's cotton prices are adding new stimulus.

Significant changes in the utilization of cotton occurred during the period from 1919 to 1928, not only in the number of new uses and extension of familiar uses, but in the proportion of cotton devoted to clothing and household uses, and that devoted to industry. In 1919, domestic mills consumed 6,000,000 bales, 50 per cent of which went into clothing, 16 per cent into articles for household use and 34 per cent into industry; in other words, about two-thirds went into clothing and household uses and one-third to industrial uses. By 1928 there had developed this change; clothing and household uses consumed only 35 per cent of the cotton consumed by American mills, whereas industrial uses accounted for 65 per cent.

The tire industry is perhaps the largest single user of cotton. It consumed 700,000 bales in 1928, or one-tenth of the total cotton consumed by American mills. Every automobile requires in its manufacture, on the average, 32 pounds of cotton. For 1929 that would aggregate 400,000 bales of cotton used by the automobile industry. During 1930, however, the number of automobiles manufactured was nearly 2,000,000 under 1929. Cotton consumption suffered.

* * * *

This increased industrialization of cotton therefore brings the whole cotton producing and manufacturing industry in more intimate relationship than ever before with the ups and downs of business and industry.

The variety of uses, industry has already found for cotton is reasonably good proof that industrial utilization of cotton will continue to increase.

Cotton is used in many ways in our industries. Estimates, however, are not available relative to the quantities used in all industries. The artificial leather or pyroxilin-coated fabric industry during the cotton year ended July 31, 1928, used about 70,000 bales of cotton, the oil cloth industry used more than 50,000 bales, the boot and shoe industry annually uses from 55,000 to 80,000 bales, using cotton for shoe linings, uppers, laces, and so on. Thousands of bales of cotton are required annually for tarpaulins to enclose buildings and other structures during cold weather, or to protect them from rain.

Where waterproofing is required, cotton is useful. The approaches to the Holland tunnel, connecting New York and New Jersey, consumed 30,000 square yards of cotton. Engineers similarly use cotton products to line the foundations of bridges, subways and skyscrapers. Highway engineers have found that a cotton membrane imbedded in the surface of materials improves the wearing qualities of a road, and makes repair easier. Leaving the ground for a moment; the airplane industry finds cotton valuable for the fabric used to cover the wings of airplanes. Col. Lindbergh's famous "Spirit of St. Louis," for example, on its memorable flight across the Atlantic, was borne on wings covered with a fabric made from American cotton.

Farmers are also important consumers of cotton. Farmers who were interviewed by the Department of Agriculture not long ago specified 150 articles other than clothing and household furnishings, in use on their farms. But even with 150 different articles using cotton, 60 more were suggested as possibilities by these farmers. They suggested cotton bagging for cotton, fertilizer bags, cotton-picking sheets, rope, potato bags and seed bags.

* * * *

Bags and bagging, in fact, constitute a large field in which the use of cotton may be extended. The important thing is to develop a lightweight cotton bagging that can be sold in competition with jute bagging, and then to sell cotton on the basis of net weight, so that cotton shipped in lightweight bagging will not be discriminated against when settlements are made on the basis of gross weights.

Laundries, flour mills and cement mills offer opportunity in the wholesale and retail use of cotton bags and bagging. Four commodities alone—cement, rice, flour and fertilizer—offer a possible use for 300,000 bales of the short staple cotton which is grown in superabundance in this country.

Cotton growers cannot afford to leave the problem of handling the surplus wholly in the hands of industry and scientific research, but in these two fields they have allies whose importance grows with the years.—Robert J. Cheatham, Bureau Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, in The United States Daily.

THE RURAL PROBLEM

Pro-American
Presbyterian

By Dr. J. H. Dillard

There has not been a period in many centuries when almost the whole world has seemed so wobbly as it seems to be at this present time. It is so in religion, it is so in politics, it is so in economic and social conditions. It is so from China to South America. It is so in the United States and in nearly all of Europe. Never were so many people out of work in England, Germany and the United States. 7-2-31

France seems to be somewhat of an exception in the field of economic conditions. This is due to a large extent, I believe, to the fact that in France the land is better divided than in most countries. I have seen the statement made that in France more people own the soil they till than in any other country. The ownership of homes is the great rural problem. No country, nor any section of any country, is in a healthy condition where only a few of the tillers of the soil own the land they till. Charlotte

The best advice that can be given for the betterment of rural people is to get land of their own. The ownership of homes is the basis of healthy economics and good citizenship. This is true of all times and all places. N. C.

We beat the air with more or less vain words when we grow eloquent over other ways and means of keeping people in the country. Education, good roads and other improvements are all right, and we do well to push forward in such ways. But whatever we may do, this ownership of homes is the basic need.

The best of all efforts for rural advancement and for stabilizing rural progress will be the efforts that may be made in any way to encourage and aid in bringing about the ownership of more and more homes.

*Note—The following extracts from two letters call attention to a way in which the purchase of small holdings could be promoted:

a.) "Late in the afternoon our gasoline gave out, and while waiting for supplies I had a good talk with an intelligent colored man whose car had kindly been put at our service to bring us relief. I enjoyed a lesson in Economics. This man paid $4 rent per acre for 75 acres of land. I found out that this land was assessed for taxation at $6 an acre and that the actual tax paid by the owner was 14 cents an acre. I heard that the land was thought to be worth something like $100 per acre. This instance touches what is, I have long believed, by far the most important economic problem in the South, and, of course, it is not confined to the South."

b.) "I have been constantly suggesting to country ministers to urge their people to get a piece of land whenever possible. I have no definite statistics, but believe there is a let-up in this direction. Of course there are many difficulties. One of these is the ridiculously low assessment and taxation of vacant land.

Cotton Continues To Plague Us

Journal & Guide

THE cotton-producing Southern states find themselves, at the beginning of harvest time, just where the experts predicted last spring they would be, unless there were drastic reductions in cotton-acreage for 1931. Repeated warnings were issued by the Farm Board representatives, responsible journals as well as experts on cotton production and consumption, but the planters forged recklessly ahead, disregarding sound advice and refused to make any substantial reductions in crops. Even the slight reductions that were made were offset by favorable weather conditions. This immediate result is that, with the government estimate of nearly 16,000,000 bales, the price dropped to 7 cents, the lowest figures within the past 25 years, and the South has become panicky.

There is no questioning the fact that we are facing an issue of major proportions and all sorts of panicky schemes have been advanced looking toward some kind of a solution. The Farm Board advised plowing under every third row; Gov. Huey Long of Louisiana would prohibit planting any 1932 crop; destroy all low grade cotton; let the government buy 8,000,000 bales and force next year's limitation by taxing over-production: these and a host of other more or less quack remedies which are looking more toward immediate relief for this year by holding a penalty over the farmers' heads for next year, than they are looking toward any lasting contributions to the South's cotton problem.

Norfolk, Va

Out of the chorus of suggestions, there have emerged but two which deserve to be classed as offering lasting benefits—the first appeared in *The Texas Weekly* recently, in which the writer advised after a careful and thoughtful survey of the whole cotton problem:

"The South must completely revise its entire economic set-up, so as to become independent of export cotton, or see a great portion of its people doomed to a bare subsistence standard of living." And then to its stinging, but truthful words adds: "Export cotton has been the scourge of the South throughout its history. It was the chief cause of the perpetuation of slavery. It was the chief cause of the Civil War. It created a submerged class of white people and has continued to keep it submerged. It is the cause of the poverty, the illiteracy, the general backwardness of the South."

The other came from our own Representative in Congress, Mr. Lankford which we are glad to endorse. While his remarks were addressed more toward alleviating unemployment conditions in the urban centers, they have a direct bearing on the problem of working ourselves out of the mess into which cotton has thrown us. Representative Lankford would have the government encourage a "back to the farm" movement by granting small loans to thousands of people for a farm set-up.

"They would not raise the crops that figure in our surpluses now, such as cotton, wheat and tobacco. They would be growing stuff that they could eat." A similar plan fostered by the government of Sweden during and since the war has met with remarkable success.

Both of these Southerners, mind you, are alive to the fact that the South must revise its whole economic set-up. Instead of making cotton for Japan and Germany and the rest of the foreign market to secure the cash with which to buy Western wheat, corn, meat and Northern manufactured goods, we must get into the business of manufacturing for our own consumption and so diversifying our crops as to be able to live at home, a self-sustaining people. If the present cotton plague serves to hasten that day it will be a blessing in disguise.

Agriculture - 1931

Condition of.

BACK TO THE FARM

We hear the faint echo of a back to the farm movement.

The visible evidences of it are not bold and the prices of farm products present no allurements, but the price of land and the scarcity of employment may be outweighing other considerations and the call of green fields and dusty roadsides may get an earnest hearing. Crops are looking fine and the promise of a normal harvest seems at least certain. The advent of another winter threatening the unemployed city population may help to turn the trick of making a back to farm decision in the mind of the one-time farmer who deserted God's acres for the bright lights and smoke stacks back in the teens and early twenties. Those who have awaited the return of war prosperity in vain have consumed the headlines of the press with a hope that has lured them on. But the signs of other days have failed in these times and the disappointing uncertainty is anything but comforting.

This is one of the sure means of reducing unemployment and whether or not it suits the recently acquired notions of many it offers a solution to the problem that beats anything that can be seen in the near distance. It does not matter that the prices of wheat and cotton are trailing; there are hundreds of other things that can be grown. Nor does it matter so much about the prices at all if there are chickens on the yard, hogs in the pen, cows in the lot, vegetables in the garden, molasses in the barrel, watermelons in the patch, fish in the streams, rabbits in the briar patch, fruit in the cellar, corn in the cribs, and coons and possums in the woods.

What a wonderful providence to give seasons that God's rich acres might yield the best things even for lazy mortals.

NEWS
SAULTE STE. MARIE, MICH

AUG 27 1931

Plowing Up Cotton

There has not been a sillier proposition made in America than that the cotton growers ought to plow up a third of their crop or whatever volume of destruction was recommended Of course nothing will be done about it. It just shows how crazy things get into public minds. Impractical persons seem to penetrate everywhere.

The fact is that cotton is grown by small farmers. Often large plantations have only a small proportion of cotton acreage. It is a cash crop. More than two million Negroes raise it for immediate money. They may have only a one-plow farm which means from twenty to thirty acres. The poor whites and poorer Negroes have worked all year and the cotton is up and some of it almost ready to gin and bale. At this juncture, too late for any consideration at all, the pestiferous Farm Board suggests plowing up every third row. It is sane to state that no attention would have been paid even before the cotton was planted, for there was an agitation for reduced acreage. Cotton is a cash crop for so many who have no initiative and apparently no other intelligent recourse that it will take a long time to reduce production in America

General

TENANCY AND SURPLUSES

Out of the forty-eight States in the American Union, only six showed a decrease in farm tenancy during the past decade, according to a report of the Department of Agriculture. Of these six, five, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware are in the East, while the West contributed one, Arizona. The figures show that last year tenancy recorded a percentage of 42.2 in the country at large against 38.1 per cent in 1920.

Farm tenancy continues greatest in the South, eight States, including Alabama, recording tenancy percentages in excess of 50. Mississippi led with 72.1 per cent; Georgia was second with 68.2; while Louisiana was third with 66.6. Alabama stood fifth on the list.

"The ten nufarming gain in the North Central States," says The New Orleans Times-Picayune, "is more disquieting, because that group does not have such racial conditions to contend with and its farming development from the beginning has been featured by idividual farm ownership."

All these data on the increase in tenant farming leads The Times-Picayune to ask:

> Has the increase of farm tenancy contributed in any way to the forcing of principal-crop surpluses that are causing so much trouble and grief in recent years? Does the tenant farmer, in other words, grow too much wheat, or too much cotton —to use the familiar examples—of his own choice and will, or is his planting program dictated in too many cases by his landlord? Many farm landlords doubtless are retired farmers who practiced wheat-growing or cotton-growing on the great scale in earlier days and under conditions vastly different from those of today. A department survey of the influence exerted upon planting programs of tenant farmers by the owners of the lands they farm might conceivably throw new and interesting light upon the problem of the persistent crop surpluses.

While it would be an example of the post hoc ergo propter hoc line of reasoning to argue, because the question of crop surpluses has become acute after a decade marked by an extraordinary increase in farm tenancy, that the system was the cause of the problem, still the tentative suggestion of The Times-Picayune is worth attention.

And it may be remarked that, leaving the boundaries of the United States, France, a country of small independent farm proprietors is one nation which seems but lightly concerned (comparatively speaking) over the matter of agricultural over-production.

HERALD
Albany Ga
AUG 28 1931.

THE REAL COTTON PROBLEM.

Not any of the recently advanced "absurd conditions" of the cotton problem, but a radical revision of the entire economic set-up in the South is what is needed, in the opinion of The Texas Weekly, an influential journal published at Dallas.

Export cotton, this journal says, has been the scourge of the South throughout its history. "At the very start," it asserts, "nearly a century and a half ago, it was the chief cause of the perpetuation of slavery. For the expansion of the cultivation of cotton for British cotton mills, following the invention of the cotton gin, made Negro slavery seemingly profitable at a time when many of the states were getting ready to abolish it. Moreover, it fastened the colonial economy of pre-Revolutionary days on the South at the very moment that the North set about the task of achieving economic independence from Europe by development of manufacturing. Export cotton was the chief cause of the Civil War, one of the greatest calamities in our national history. But more grievous than any of these evil results is the fact that export cotton created a submerged class of white people in the South, and has continued to keep it submerged, a class which lives at a bare subsistence level most of the time, is helpless to improve its condition and absolutely hopeless so far as any outlook for economic progress is concerned. It is export cotton that has been the cause of the poverty, the illiteracy, and of the general backwardness of the South."

The "solution" offered by the Texas paper is not one of those so-called "absurd solutions" that have come forth from recent discussion of the subject—those solutions which caused another Texas paper, the Dallas Times-Herald, to remark that one would think a prize was being offered for the most absurd suggestion. The "solution" offered by the Texas Weekly is none other than that put forth again and again through the years past by many of the leading journals of the South The Herald, as one of many, has held up this solution consistently and continually for many, many years. It is expressed in words by the Texas paper as well, perhaps, as it has ever been expressed, and so we repeat it. It does not use the word "diversification," but that is really what it means, in the last analysis. The Texas paper says:

"We don't know anything that can be done to help the cotton farmer materially during the coming year. But we do know that the South must completely revise its entire economic set-up, so as to become independent of export cotton, or see a great portion of its people doomed to a bare subsistence standard of living permanently and its relative economic importance in relation to the other sections of the country and of the world decline to a lower and lower level. That means that the South must ultimately cut its annual production of cotton in half—not next year, but ultimately and as a permanent policy—by finding other occupation for its people than raising cotton for foreign export. This course was always advisable for the South, but the changed world which the World War left us has made this course imperative.

"What we may do now or next season to affect the price of cotton cannot possibly be of as much importance as whether we shall take fully to heart the lesson of the present situation and resolve that,

by patient and persistent effort, we shall free the Southland from the scourge of export cotton, at whatever cost, and in the face of whatever seemingly insurmountable obstacles that bar the way."

Views of Our Contemporaries

COTTON AND THE NEGRO

Cotton has been "king" in agricultural production in these United States for many years. It is the principal crop of the great Southern States. It is the predominant livelihood of more than half of the Negro population of this country. Its production, its harvest and its manufacture of staple and by-products run into the billions of dollars.

The most ridiculous suggestion that ever emanated from an administration is that from the Hoover administration to destroy one-third of the present crop. And following that comes the suggestion, more foolish than the first, to prevent the planting of any cotton at all next year. "What fools some mortals be."

Of course, the Negro is not thought of in either of these "Tom fool" suggestions. The carrying out of either suggestion would affect the Negro tremendously. He is the main dependence in cotton production. That is the one thing he can do well. And, too, cotton production is the life of the Negro throughout the South. If one-third of the present crop is destroyed, it will affect more than one-half of the Negroes in this country. If production is prohibited next year it will throw 5,000,000 Negroes on charity. We are speaking of the present situation and the near future.

For more than twenty-five years we have advocated diversified farming for the Negro of the South, and had they taken it up even ten or five years ago, they would not be in the plight that now faces them.

If Governor Long's plan should be put into operation it would upset the whole South. What would happen to the millions of men, women and children who are dependent upon cotton raising, picking, ginning, compressin and the cotton oil production for their living? What would happen to the price of lard and oil used in preparing so much of the food of the South?

Where is the money coming from to suddenly change from cotton to diversified farming? Fences would have to be built, cattle, hogs and sheep purchased. New machinery for the changed production of crops to be bought. And can the Negro be adapted over night to a new method of farming? Governor Long's plan to hold up cotton production is preposterous. The plan of the administration is foolish.

Let the South take this situation as an example of what may happen any year and begin now to gradually cut down the cotton acreage by going in for more diversified farming. Even with that suggestion, each county and each community would do well to test its land and find out the crops best adaptable to that land and the time and methods of harvesting, and the possible markets should all enter into the changed program. And with it all, more than one-half of the Negroes in this country will be vitally affected. Whatever happens to cotton production and sale will affect the Negro.—The Washington Tribune.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

SEP 14 1931

Cotton and the Negro

To the New York Herald Tribune:

The Southern states are now grappling with the proposed moratorium for one year on the production of cotton. This proposal is made necessary on account of the overproduction of that staple and the collapse of prices in the world market. The collateral consequence upon the fate of the Negro race has seemingly escaped attention.

The Negro was introduced into America and has thriven here mainly on the basis of the cotton industry. His fortune has waxed and waned according to the demands of the cotton power. Slavery did not thrive in the North, because cotton would not grow there. Slave holders in Maryland and Virginia, finding that the institution did not pay, were about to emancipate their slaves, when the invention of the cotton gin stimulated the cotton culture in the lower South, which furnished a market for the profitless bondsmen in the older states.

The original territory of the United States was divided into Northwest territory and Southwest territory, according as the region was or was not adapted to the culture of cotton. The domain of slavery was conterminous with the cotton empire. The Missouri Compromise, the Free Soil Party, the Dred Scott Decision were all dictated by the decree of King Cotton.

* * *

Lincoln's emancipation proclamation did not alter, in any essential way, the Negro's dependence on the silver fleece. The requirements of the production of this staple gave the Negro a fixed place in America's economic scheme. Slavery planted him in the cotton belt, where he remains except as he is dispersed by the exigencies of this industry. The volume of the northward movement is determined by the ups and downs of the cotton market. The boll weevil started the wave which received momentum by the World War, but which has reached high-water mark during the last decade because of the debacle in this basic industry.

The Negro is adapted to the semi-tropical industry, such as raising cotton, rice and sugar cane, in which he is irreplaceable by European labor. He thrives only as a fish out of the water north of the thirty-ninth parallel. He does not easily adapt himself to the agricultural industrial life of the higher latitudes. He has nowhere shown any marked success in the culture of grain, grazing, dairying, fruit growing, truck raising or gardening. In passing through the open areas of the South where the Nero peasantry prevails, one is amazed at the Negro's ineptitude in establishing a kitchen garden. Under spur of scientific agents from the Agricultural Department some interest is being stimulated in this direction. But give any Negro family a mule and twenty acres and he will raise a fairly successful crop of cotton.

* * *

It is noticeable that the Negro population is settling in the cotton belt and in the cities of the South and North. Nowhere does he take to non-cotton agriculture. He never goes from the farm in the South to the farm in the North or West, but makes a bee-line for the city, where he finds no certain and irreplaceable function. At one time it did appear that domestic service offered him a field all his own, but aside from the Pullman porter service, he seems to be a sure loser against white competition.

In this dark hour of depression one cannot escape the gloomy query: "What will this man do, if the cotton industry is suspended?" He has lost much of his land ownership during the last decade. He can illy adapt himself to diversified and adaptable farming. The white land owners can make little use of share tenants or hired hands unless they yield returns of ready cash value.

The Negro's rush from the farm to the city will become precipitant. The limited industrial opportunity allows little room for the black competitor. An impossible situation will be thus created.

The South, and the North, too, should ponder long and well on the possible consequences before venturing upon a policy which will practically shut out the Negro from the chief industry from which he derives his livelihood.

KELLY MILLER.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 12, 1931.

FIFTY-SEVEN VARIETIES OF COTTON COUNTRIES

Now that the radical and dangerous Long plan is emitting its death rattle it will be instructive to read the list of countries in which some cotton is now grown and in which a great deal more could be grown on short notice. The list has behind it the authority of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is as follows: United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Haiti, Porto Rico, British West Indies, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Malta, Spain, Algeria, Morocco, Dahomey, Ivory Coast, French Guinea, Senegal, French Sudan, Upper Volta, Niger Terr, Egypt, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Italian Somaliland, Eritrea, Gold Coast, Belgian Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Angola, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, South Rhodesia, North Rhodesia, Mozambique, Union of South Africa, Cyprus, Asiatic Turkey, Syria and Lebanon, Asiatic Russia, Iraq, Persia, India, China, Japan, Chosen (Korea), French Indo China, Dutch East Indies, Siam, Australia, New Hebrides.

Agriculture—1931

General

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M'DUFFIE ASKS INTERNATIONAL COTTON SESSION

Advertiser

Trade Situation Is Outlined To Hoover; Congressman Admits Barriers

10-8-31

CONSUMPTION DECREASE BLAMED ON COMPETITION

By RUSSELL KENT
Advertiser Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—An international conference to consider problems confronting cotton was urged upon President Hoover Tuesday by Representative John McDuffie of Alabama, Democratic whip of the House. Congressman McDuffie conferred with the Chief Executive at the White House and left with him a letter outlining the situation of cotton.

The Alabama congressman told the President that he recognizes problems which would be involved in enforcing an international agreement to curtail cotton acreage but nevertheless feels that much good would come from a conference of cotton producing nations. He suggests increased study to develop new uses for cotton and that questions of marketing and improvement of grades also might be discussed.

Congressman McDuffie pointed out in his letter to the President the decreased proportion of American cotton that is being consumed in the world and gave statistics of the production of other areas.

"While recognizing the problems involved in the enforcement of an international agreement to curtail the acreage to be planted in cotton for the next cotton year, much good might be derived from a conference of all cotton producing nations," Congressman McDuffie said in his letter to President Hoover.

"Indeed, the problem of new uses for cotton, while being studied by a bureau of our Government, should be given consideration in such a conference, as well as the question of the marketing and the improvement of grades. An international discussion of the over-production of cotton could certainly work no injury to the industry, and there is much probability it would impress cotton producers everywhere of the absolute necessity of curtailing acreage.

"The latest and best figures available show the world consumption of cotton for the cotton year 1928-1929 was 25,882,000 bales; for 1929-1930, 25,209,000 bales, and for the year 1930-1931, 22,483,000 bales. The world production of cotton in 1930-1931 was 26,400,000 bales. Of the world consumption in 1930-1931, 48.5 per cent was American cotton, whereas in 1929-1930, 51.7 per cent of the world consumption was American cotton. The total consumption of American cotton in 1930-1931 was only 10,907,000 bales as against 13,023,000 bales for the year 1929-1930; 15,076,000 for 1928-1929, and in the record consumption year of 1926-1927 the world used 15,780,000 bales of American cotton. This shows a decrease last year in the consumption of American cotton of 30.9 per cent under the consumption of the year 1926-1927; 27.7 per cent decrease for the year 1928-1929, and 16.2 per cent under the year 1929-1930.

"These figures do not present an encouraging outlook for the American producer, especially in those sections where cotton is relied upon almost exclusively as a money crop, which is true of most of the cotton producing area in the United States.

"The cotton producing areas of the world include Asiatic states or provinces, which produce 8,000,000 bales annually; the African states, approximately 2,000,000 bales; European countries, 25,000 bales; South and Central American countries and the West Indies approximately 1,000,000 bales; Mexico 175,000 bales and the United States approximately 15,500,000 bales.

"The American producer formerly supplied the world with cotton but these figures indicate that foreign growers are becoming keen competitors to our domestic producers. My understanding is that their cost of production is only about a fraction of that of our domestic growers, and this is another problem of our industry that must be taken into consideration.

"The international conference has already been suggested by Egyptian authorities, as well as by many Americans. It is to be hoped, Mr. President, that these suggestions will meet with your approval and that you will find it feasible and proper to request the conference at the earliest possible date with a view of finding a solution for the many problems now confronting the producer of cotton."

Lexington, Ga., Echo
Friday, October 16, 1931

COTTON AND THE NEGRO

The southern states are now grappling with the proposed moratorium for one year on the production of cotton. This proposal is made necessary on account of the over-production of that staple and the collapse of prices in the world market. The collateral consequence upon the fate of the negro race has seemingly escaped attention.

The negro was introduced into America and has thriven here mainly on the basis of the cotton industry. His fortune has waxed and waned according to the demands of the cotton power Slavery did not thrive in the north because cotton would not grow there. Slave holders in Maryland and Virginia, finding that the institution did not pay, were about to emancipate their slaves when the invention of the cotton gin stimulated the cotton culture in the lower south, which furnished a market for the profitless bondsmen in the older states.

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In this dark hour of depression one cannot escape the gloomy query: "What will this man do if the cotton industry is suspended?" He has lost much of his land ownership during the last decade. He can illy adapt himself to diversified and adaptable farming. The white land owners can make little use of share tenants or hired hands unless they yield returns of ready cash value.

The negro's rush from the farm to the city will become precipitant. The limited industrial opportunity allows little room for the black competitor. An impossible situation will be thus created.

The south and the north, too, should ponder long and well on the possible consequence before venturing upon a policy which will practically shut out the negro from the chief industry from which he derives his livelihood.—Kelly Miller, in New York Tribune-Herald.

Author Not Senator Started Phrase "Cotton is King"

Journal

NEW YORK. — (CNS) — Recent research here has been responsible for the revelation of the true authorship of the phrase "Cotton Is King." Heretofore it had been erroneously supposed that the phrase had been coined by Senator James Henry Hammond of South Carolina, who on March 4, 1858 declared in the senate "Sir, you dare not make war on cotton. No power on earth dares to make war on cotton. Cotton is king." However, three years before the Southern Senator made this statement it had been popularized by David Christy, author, who in 1855 published a book entitled, "Cotton Is King, or, Slavery in the Light of Political Economy."

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FARM and GARDEN

TEXAS COTTON BEING BRED TO AID HARVESTING

New Plant May Solve Picking Problems.

BY PAUL POTTER.

Ever since the south has been picking cotton, engineers and those of inventive bent have been seeking an emancipation for those who must bend their backs or crawl along the boll bearing plants to pluck the fiber by hand.

Yet a recent survey of the progress in perfecting harvesting equipment for cotton shows that neither this country nor any other section devoted to the crop yet has found the winning combination. Millions of dollars have been spent for machines, and repeated demonstrations have plunged hundreds of capitalists and inventors into despair.

Yet from all the research, being continued today by the larger farm equipment manufacturers, two types of device have been developed. Some manufacturers consulted in Chicago last week opined that the United States might gain a decided edge on Russia, India, Egypt or any other cotton growing area by the route of botany and plant propagation, in addition to the ingenious machinery that may be perfected.

Russia Returns to Hand Picking.

Russia has attempted to use cumbersome machines, still requiring much skilled hand labor, and utilizing a vacuum type of picker, but this method has been abandoned. A few such machines are being worked over in the south today, in Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Two fundamental types of device are named by Prof. H. P. Smith, Texas farm engineer, who has made an intensive study of the situation. One type strips the cotton from the plants either before or after frost. The other type of machines gather the open cotton at any time during the season without injury to the rest of the plant.

The handicaps of chief importance to a "one time over the field" harvesting of cotton, as is done by the harvesters in grain, have been such as to lead state college experiment stations to seek new plant types, much as was done to overcome the boll weevil.

New Plant Must Ripen Evenly.

The principal concern of those now developing new cotton plants is to breed a plant that will produce uniformly ripening fiber bolls in a narrow row. Their problem is similar to that of the sweet corn growers of the middle west, who seek to narrow the ripening period of ears so that the most valuable part of the crop can be obtained in one trip through the field.

Since 1927 the Texas college has been breeding from a cotton plant found growing at substation No. 8. This basic plant had certain desirable characteristics favorable to mechanical harvesting. It was "prolific, extremely early in maturing and produced its bolls in clusters on short stems close to the main branches," Smith declares, adding that it had staple of good character and fair length.

Certain objectionable characteristics have been "bred out" since that time and now the station is approaching what it considers a satisfactory parent plant for the cotton planters and engineers to use in developing machine picking. In this pioneer field, the "new south" is said to be gaining possible future advantages in production over the "old south" and foreign cotton growing areas.

Cuts Maturing Period in Half.

Not only is the new Texas cotton plant expected to make it possible for mechanical picking, but the plant has a shorter maturing period, with but sixteen days between the time the first boll opened until the last boll was ready to pick. Most varieties have been found to require 35 to 50 days for this maturity.

"Should this variety come up to our expectations," Smith told the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in Chicago some months ago, "we feel that it will simplify the problem of making a mechanical harvester that will harvest such a type of cotton. It will also make it possible to get in the fields with the mechanical harvester in the early part of September, harvest all the cotton at one time over and before it is damaged by bad weather conditions which usually begin some time in October."

The Agricultural Outlook In The South

A highly encouraging report on the agricultural outlook in the South has recently been made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture.

The bureau finds that agriculturally the Southern states are in better economic condition than they were a year ago, and that the farmers of this section are in the "best frame of mind" in several years. The bureau offers a good deal of evidence in support of these statements.

The improved economic conditions of the agricultural South are due largely, the bureau says, to reduced costs of production and to the growing of more food for farm families and feed for livestock.

At the outlook conference held at Memphis recently, with 150 federal and state economists and extension workers participating, it was declared that this year's cotton crop was produced at the lowest cost in many years and that there is a general disposition to devote more acreage to the production of food and feed supplies.

While prices for cotton are low, consumption of cotton is being stimulated because of that, and this will tend to reduce the surplus and strengthen prices. At the same time the bureau says it tends to discourage cotton production in competing countries.

Truck crops for shipment are reduced in acreage, but are still of large proportions, and the bureau reports that reasonable diversification of truck crops and production of high-quality produce at lower unit costs are "becoming more important than ever."

In several respects the bureau finds Southern agriculture on a sounder basis. Peach production in the South, for example, is reported to be on a sound economic basis. Sugar production in Louisiana, through the use of new varieties of cane, has been increased, with higher average yields.

The bureau urges poultry and egg production for home use as a part of every sound program of home food production, and advises increased dairying activities in the South. "Most farmers who have good market for fluid milk," it says, "would seem to be fully justified in increasing herds, as good-quality milk brings a relatively high price in most Southern cities."

The complete report on the outlook for Southern agriculture is now ready for distribution and copies may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture. Since it contains much reassuring information for Southern farmers and a great deal of sound advice for the future, it is to be hoped that the report will be widely circulated in the South. Every farmer should avail himself of the information it contains.

In line with the bureau's general report for the South, information concerning conditions in Alabama, furnished by F. W. Gist, state and federal statistician, reveals a large harvest of food and feed crops this year. Mr. Gist reports that all crops, with the exception of cotton, made gains ranging from 10 to 50 per cent over last year. The average yield of corn was 15.5 bushels an acre, compared with 10.5 bushels last year, and the crop was good over the entire state, with the exception of a few South Alabama counties where severe drouth occurred. The harvest of hay is expected to exceed last year's by more than 50 per cent, but while it is one of the largest crops ever produced in Alabama, it still falls short of the actual needs. The production of peanuts in Alabama was increased this year by about 25 per cent, with an acre-yield estimated at 600 pounds. The oat crop, probably the largest ever harvested in this state, was double that of last year, and has helped to supplement the food shortage on many farms, according to Mr. Gist.

Similar gains are reported in many other crops. The most notable feature of Mr. Gist's report is the increase in food and feed crop production. The farmers of Alabama, like the farmers of the South in general, are coming to realize the importance of living at home to a larger extent.

It is a significant fact, however, that while food and feed production in Alabama and in the rest of the South has increased substantially, the production is still far short of the actual needs. The South has been importing food and feed supplies from other sections to the estimated extent of $430,000,000 a year. This has been a heavy drain on the South's agricultural resources, and is still a heavy drain notwithstanding the increased production of food and feed crops. The South must continue to enlarge its acreage of these crops.

In this need lies a strong argument for the utilization of Muscle Shoals for cheap fertilizer production, in accordance with the report made to President Hoover by the Federal-Alabama-Tennessee Muscle Shoals Commission. The problem of increased food and feed production in this section is largely a fertilizer problem, and the manufacture of fertilizer concentrates at Muscle Shoals would go far toward solving it.

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MARTIAL LAW IN THE COTTON FIELDS

The Advertiser wishes to elaborate its objections to the so-called Long plan as follows:

1. From the time of its adoption until June planting is over, and probably until the July Government report on acreage appears there would exist great uncertainty as to the amount of cotton actually planted. Many farmers would be unable to hold cotton, or would fear that the Plan would amount to nothing and would not try to hold. The principal benefit would come to those who could and would hold cotton and to the dealers and speculators.

2. It is unlikely that the Long Plan would be adopted by States that have recently had only small cotton acreage, including Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Several of these States have produced better yields per acre than the average in the South. A high price doubtless would induce many farmers in those states to plant cotton or increase acreage where it is already planted. Other farm products have brought poor prices for several years, and corn, hogs and other products such as are grown in those border States would not appear attractive in view of the fact that the deep South would appear to be able, if not compelled, to engage in increased production of those articles in 1932. Much fertile land in border States where cotton growing has had small acreage and in States where in recent years it has not been planted would be planted in cotton with a view of sharing in the gamble for high prices that would be attractive. An investigation of the farming history of these States would show that they could and probably would put enough land in cotton to minimize, if not destroy, the benefits of the Long Plan. It may be said that the growing season is probably long enough for Maryland, Southern Indiana, Middle Colorado and Southern Ohio in addition to the States already mentioned to add somewhat to the cotton area if the situation should look attractive enough through operation of the Long plan.

3. The entire prohibition of cotton growing in the cotton States would bring about a great increase in other products, principally food products, which would not be profitable in large quantities when grown by farmers lacking experience in producing and selling them. If it be desired to make the South a great food producing section, to have generally diversified farming, growing of fruits, vegetables, corn, hogs and cattle raising on a profitable basis, nothing could be more hurtful to this plan than for the farmers to be compelled to plunge into it on so large a scale in one year. The result would be such that many farmers would permanently swear off from planting any food products or raising any livestock. This statement is self convincing to any observant man.

4. Some farmers would not undertake to operate at all if cotton planting were prohibited. A number of others would find that they could cultivate their acreage in food and feed crops with less labor than heretofore used and this would raise a spectre of unemployment, crime, begging, and starvation of stupendous proportions. This is self-evident.

5. Business in general would be disturbed. Credit arrangements, trade in general, values of various sorts would all be disturbed from now until cotton harvesting time in 1933.

6. There would be much increase of acreage in every one of the score or more cotton sections in the four corners of the globe, and it is useless to deny this statement.

7. The Fall of 1933 would witness such times as would make us forget the Fall of 1898 and of 1904 and this Fall. The inability in 1932 to sell crops substituted for cotton would cause the deep South to have a larger acreage planted in cotton in 1933 than it has ever known before—perhaps forty per cent greater than was planted in 1926, when we grew 18,000,000 bales. The crop would be produced without weevil threat or damage, if, as we are assured, prohibition would exterminate the weevil. The States just North of the main cotton belt which would have increased cotton planting in 1932 under the stimulus of the Long plan would contribute some cotton and other cotton producing nations would greatly add to their former yield. Just how much more cotton there would be no one could guess. And we may wonder how the price would be this year if the crop were forty to eighty per cent larger. It certainly would not be five cents. If all of us were expecting to be rich or gone from the South by that time it not would much difference, but in the main the same farmers and tradesmen who are now troubled about the price of cotton would be here to be troubled about the price in 1933. It is certain that in 1933 we would owe more per ton for fertilizer than we do this year because of the competition of the farmers to get it that year in order to make up for lost time in growing cotton.

8. It should be remembered that all the distressing things that would happen would be accompanied or preceded by only very moderate benefits to the cotton farmer. There might be no benefits if bordering States and foreign acreage increased as much as s probable or possible. But if this increase in acreage should not be very great, it would be expected that it would be considerable and farmers, buyers and speculators would govern themselves accordingly.

9. LET US LAY ASIDE THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ATTACK ON THE LONG PLAN BUT THAT IT WOULD BE ADOPTED AND FAIRLY CARRIED OUT BY THE NINE PRINCIPAL COTTON GROWING STATES. IF WE DO THIS WE MAY LOOK FOR THE FOLLOWING DIFFICULTIES TO ARISE:

There would still exist the difficulties referred to above, including increase in acreage in States North of where cotton is largely grown and in foreign countries. There would come disruption of business, the killing of the disposition to grow other crops than cotton in the cotton states and the large acreage in 1933, with prices lower than we have ever known.

10. Difficulties other than those named would confront the Long plan for obvious reasons. Paraphrasing a well known quotation it may be said that it would be difficult to send a whole county to the penitentiary. And there would be whole counties which with, or without legal protection would plant cotton in 1932. The eventual punishment, if any, would be some time in the future. The legal side of the question would be serious. If it could be supposed that most of the farmers would follow the plan, which would be a most foolish and violent supposition, there would be those who are interested in cotton in one way or another who would encourage a few farmers to attack the plan in the Courts.

11. Under the police powers of Government laws may be passed to prevent or combat pests, crimes, pestilence and the like. Not a few lawyers would say that a law based upon the police power of Government could not be passed to remedy an evil which did not exist, or which, if existent, is negligible. The law would be attacked in the courts on the grounds that it violated certain provisions of the United States Constitution or of the Constitution of most of the States, which protect a man in the right to pursuit of happiness and the right to work and to earn a livelihood; and on the ground that it would amount to confiscation of property. The proponents of the law would reply that the law is based on the police power and is intended to prevent ravages of boll weevils. When the cases were tried it would be proven by most, if not all, of the boll weevil experts that the weevil had not been destructive in Northern Texas and Northern Alabama and other portions of cotton growing States; it would be shown in the years when the boll weevil spread to those sections that the damage was slight and in many years they were never seen. Some practical farmers would swear that the weevil could not thrive in the northern portion of the cotton belt. Final determination in the Courts might come in 1933 or it might be later, but probably not sooner. Without doing violence to the intellectual integrity of the Courts a decision might be rendered for or against the Long plan. As stated before, the penalty or punishment would not appear immediate or certain to the ordinary farmer. Many of us know that in a matter which involves time an outright defeat in a law suit is often accompanied by a very substantial victory. The injunction against letting Alabama road contracts last Winter resulted in such defeat and victory. A man about to be hanged in Jefferson county some years ago experienced the same sort of defeat and victory in a law suit and is still living. People familiar with courts could tell such instances almost without end. The fact that Mr. Blank said that "Mr. So and So told this and that how he was going to knock that law all to pieces," would be very effective.

12. In Denmark and in certain northern and western States intelligent farm leadership is given the credit for farm prosperity. Permanent welfare of Southern farmers is expected to come from intelligent leadership and cooperation. Regardless of whose plan it is, the public at large, and particularly the farmers, will place the blame for the disaster which seems certain to grow out of it upon farm leadership and particularly upon the Farm Bureau. This will no doubt retard cooperative movements through the destruction of confidence in organized farm leadership. This would be most unfortunate.

Prof. Parrish said.

COTTON HAS NOT FAILED US—WE HAVE FAILED COTTON

We do not believe that it is any more desirable for the South to abandon cotton culture than it is for California to abandon fruit culture, Iowa to abandon corn culture, Minnesota to abandon wheat culture and Maine to abandon Irish potato culture. Advertiser

We do not believe that the cotton grower is so completely whipped that he must surrender, although it is plain to see that the cotton grower is groggy and short of wind. But, then, so is the fruit-grower groggy, so is the corn-grower, so is the wheat-grower—so are most manufacturers, so are many others. 9-11-31

Abandonment of cotton culture, even for one year, as has been proposed, would be not merely futile, but palpably suicidal to all except the fortunate handful of men whose means would enable them to hold on to their cotton until the price advanced materially, which under prohibition it might do after next Spring—but not before. That of course would leave the ordinary grower with the empty cotton sack to hold, without a dollar in his pocket, without credit, without hope, without a solvent friend on this round, whirling globe. Montgomery

Now that the Long plan is dead, the talk will turn to acreage limitation, where it should have been confined from the beginning. There will be no more serious talk of abandoning cotton throughout the South. But we shall continue to hear scared men in the Southeast talk about surrendering the cotton field to the Southwest, where cotton can be produced more economically than in the Southeast. We shall continue to hear from the defeatists that despair is the only proper mood for cotton men in this section.

But that will butter no hot biscuits when the syrup is new and good.

The fact is that the Southeast will continue to grow cotton, as will the Southwest.

The fact is that the cotton growers of Oklahoma, Texas, and the delta country, notwithstanding that they grow more per acre and grow it more cheaply than it can be grown in other sections, are in quite as bad a way as the cotton growers of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and the Carolinas.

The fact is that when cotton prices are high farmers in the latter States seem to flourish along with the growers of Oklahoma, Texas and the delta. Texas and Oklahoma are not new competitors.

This being true, should not all discussion and effort be directed to cotton control? Cotton is not the South's enemy when controlled. It is the South's very special friend, which has never had a real opportunity to show its boundless friendship.

The trouble is that notwithstanding our long experience with cotton in a world whose affairs are none too well ordered we have never made the most of its possibilities, and the circumstance may be due to our failure to think seriously about cotton's limitations except in the bad years.

We have not made the most of cotton's stupendous possibilities because we have not consistently followed a policy of balanced farming.

We have let cotton control us instead of controlling cotton and keeping it in its place.

We have not, generally speaking, done our best to make other farm activities pay operating expenses so that cotton would always be velvet.

We have not built up the soil systematically and intelligently. We have starved it, we have let it wash away, we have cultivated it indifferently.

We have not consistently endeavored to produce a better staple—at least we here in Alabama have not, except for a few exemplary and enterprising growers here and there in each of the counties. Our alibi is that the buyers will not pay any more for good long staple than for good short staple.

We have never known the whole truth about this, but we do know that the growers of long staple in the delta get more for their cotton than we do. And we believe that it is quite possible for Alabamians to improve the market for their product as they improve the quality of their product.

We refuse to believe that there is any market obstacle that cannot, with intelligent and energetic leadership, be overcome.

And that is not all we have failed to do for cotton—we have not ourselves consumed as much of it as we might nor induced others beyond the South, beyond our national borders, to consume as much of it as they might. We have not exploited cotton in world markets as much as we might have done.

We have not done all that we could, at least we have not done as much as we shall yet do, to multiply and extend the uses of cotton and its by-products.

Let our pan-Southern propagandists, our economists, our promoters improve their technique and work with increasing energy to "sell" cotton and its by-products to the world in a bigger way than ever before.

Politically we can take care to see that our rulers at Washington perform better. It is their plain duty to strike down artificial trade barriers that check the natural flow of cotton and its by-products through the nations of the world. It is, of course, their duty to assist in all reasonable ways, in restoring stability and confidence in other countries, and to cultivate by every legitimate means the good will of peoples everywhere. It is their duty to lead in the organization of the forces of peace.

We are aware that there are many generalities in the foregoing remarks, but we believe them to be true, and we believe that they point the way out to independence for the cotton grower.

We must strive constantly to lower the cost of production, to improve the quality of our product, and to practice balanced farming, each cotton State working along its peculiar lines, we must press steadily for a vaster world consumption of cotton and its by-products. This involves a smaller total production which should insure real profits.

Our opportunity is to make the most of cotton's great possibilities.

Agriculture - 1931

General

Condition of Virginia, Carolina and Maryland Legislature Applied Holiday Policy To Tobacco Three Hundred Years Ago

BY DAVID Y. THOMAS.
Professor of History in the University of Arkansas.

Prohibition is trying everywhere, whether in the form of a "noble experiment" applied to the making and transporting of liquor, or the Long plan applied to the planting of cotton. Taken tobacco, for example, the "weed" which James I, King of England, detested and against which he launched his famous "counterblast." Sir Walter Raleigh had introduced it into English society before James became king and that worthy had not been on the throne 10 years before tobacco was selling at $2 and more a pound.

No wonder the infant colony of Virginia took up its cultivation. In 1612 John Rolfe, husband to Pocahontas, the heroine of Captain John Smith's tale, discovered a new way to cure it and Virginia tobacco became very popular. Everybody in the colony planted tobacco and even the streets of Jamestown were devoted to it. Some people soon saw the evils of the one-crop system and Governor Yardley attempted to check this evil by proclamation in 1619. James threatened to prohibit the importation of tobacco into England, but saw an opportunity to fill his purse and clapped a tax on it. The London company protested and a compromise was reached. James prohibited the growth of any tobacco in England and gave a monopoly of importation to the London and Somers island companies, in return for which he was to receive one-third of the proceeds.

This was a handicap, but the price was high enough to stimulate production and the proceeds from the crop continued to fall. In 1629 the legislature of Virginia prohibited newcomers from planting for one year and limited every planter to 2,000 plants, later reduced to 1,500. Tobacco viewers were appointed and violators were debarred from any future planting.

Before this the bottom had dropped out of the price and the Virginia legislature tried price-fixing. 6 pence in 1631, 9 pence in 1633. Six years later the legislature went the farm board one better and, instead of decreeing the plowing up of every third row, followed the policy of the Dutch growers of spice by ordering the destruction of one-half of the crop. And then a lot of tobacco went up in smoke that did not come out of the mouth of anybody.

Maryland had come into the competition by this time and things went from bad to worse. And then, to make things still worse, some people left Virginia and went into North Carolina in search of richer bottom lands and threw their products on a glutted market. Desperation suggested heroic remedies. The legislature of Maryland passed "an act for the encouragement of trade," which stipulated that, for one year, "noe tobacco shall be sowen, sett, planted or in any way tended within this province of Maryland," provided that Virginia and the "southward plantations" (the Albemarle settlement in North Carolina) do the same.

Governor Charles Calvery approved the act, notified Virginia and Albemarle, and appointed commissioners to meet like commissioners from the other colonies. July 12, 1666, the commissioners, seven from Maryland, four from Virginia, and two from Albemarle, met at James City, approved the policy and drew up a plan for carrying it out, subject to ratification by Virginia and Albemarle. They further stipulated that each colony should have the right to send agents into the others to see if the agreement was being observed. Virginia promptly ratified and the first legislative assembly ever assembled in North Carolina did the same. An Indian attack upon Albemarle delayed her notification a few days beyond October 5, the date agreed upon, but the others overlooked this and a second meeting of the commissioners, December 11, 1666, confirmed the previous agreement.

And now the stage was all set for a "totall cessation from sowing, setting, planting or any waies tending any tobacco in any or in any part of the colonies aforesaid from the first of February, one thousand six hundred sixty-six (seven) until the first of February, one thousand six hundred sixty-seaven (eight)."

Meantime Thomas Ludwell, secretary to Governor Berekley (whose widow he afterwards married), had anticipated this action by notifying Lord Arlington, secretary of the Board of Trade, of what was coming. But the Board of Trade did not believe that this would enhance the revenue of the king, however much it might encourage the trade of the colonies. The scheme fell through and the colonists continued to bewail at intervals the low price of tobacco, but at intervals they were cheered by good prices.

A COTTON TAX PLAN

1. Farmers understand tax as well as bankers and hate to pay it, as do we all. Farmers have seen cows levied on and sold for taxes without any red tape or jury trial. Farmers have been arrested for failing to buy their auto tags in time. Farmers understand that taxes are immediate and more or less imperative as to results.

2. A tax of say twenty dollars per bale, on half of the cotton crop of 1931 and 1932 could be levied, or the tax could be levied on the entire crop with half of each farmer's crop exempt from the tax. Payment would be deferred until cotton is ginned and the ginneries could be made responsible for collection of the tax. Suitable penalties for moving cotton from the States without first paying the tax should be provided. The tax should be made collectable out of the landlord and tenant and should be made a lien on any property and collectable without court proceedings, as property taxes in Alabama are. Half of the 1931 crop of each farmer should be exempt from the tax. The farmer, under suitable restrictions to prevent fraud and deception, should have exempt from the tax the 1932 yield from not exceeding half his 1932 crop or not exceeding half the acreage he had planted in 1931.

3. This plan would afford immediate relief, bringing immediate increase in prices, and slow up the sale of cotton. If the price should get high enough the farmer would sell and pay the tax. It could be quickly understood by the cotton trade and the farmer, and would increase prices soon enough to be very helpful. A decreased acreage in cotton in 1932 would promote an increase in other crops, but not so large an increase as would come under a prohibition plan. Business, credits and the economic structure would not receive a severe shock as they would under the Long plan. Pauperization, unemployment, crime and the like would not come under this plan as it would under the Long plan.

4. The legality of this plan in most of the Southern States is undoubted. Many lawyers who know how to use reference books will quickly affirm that this is true

5. This plan presents nothing especially novel. It has been published by The Charlotte (N. C.) Observer, as offered by a Cleveland, N. C., farmer.

6. The stock of cotton at the beginning of the present season was said to be nine million bales. Five million bales of this is said to be American cotton. Several million bales are required as a normal stock. The plan as offered would certainly take care of the American surplus or the world's surplus and would not cause cotton to go dangerously high—so high as to provoke increased acreage in other cotton growing sections. It should cause the price to quickly rise to a profitable point.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

SEP 16 1931

The Globe-Democrat is an independent newspaper, printing the news impartially, supporting what it believes to be right and opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics.

RETREAT OF THE BOLL WEEVIL.

What the cotton situation would be without the boll weevil, it is needless to inquire. We know that with the boll weevil, we have come to a crisis.

Whatever other meanings are to be read in estimates that increase with each month until a 1931 cotton crop of almost 16,000,000 bales is indicated it shows that the cotton plant is doing more than to hold its own against the weevils. The hungry insect is still a pest, of course, and adds much to the labor and expense of the planters, but had the weevils continued their sway, bills in Southern legislatures to limit acreage would be unnecessary. Acreage reduction would have been attended to by the boll weevils.

The pest is combated by poisonings and by growing a variety of cotton that matures before the weevils mature. However, the latter has not been without its drawbacks. Early maturing cotton is of the short staple variety that not only brings a low price in world markets but is in direct competition with the inferior grades raised in India and other foreign countries.

Parts of Texas and Oklahoma have been found admirably adapted to this low-grade cotton and with tractors 100 or more acres are cultivated at less cost than fifteen acres are cultivated under the one-mule, one Negro system of the old cotton states. Within a few years Texas' cotton acreage has increased from 11,000,000 to 17,000,000 acres, so that now it produces more than a third of the entire national crop, and Oklahoma's has increased from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 acres. And everywhere, as a result of the check on the pest and better farm methods, the yield per acre is mounting. The 254 pounds per acre in Missouri is given as the maximum, but the average is 247 pounds in North Carolina and only slightly less in some other states.

In only exceptional instances did the boll weevils remove every third row from production. The insects are in retreat now and if special legislative sessions can limit acreage, they can also limit the plantings to the higher grades of cotton, something equally important.

Long Is Asking Mississippi To Back His Plan

BATON ROUGE, LA., Oct. 4.—(AP)—Gov. Huey P. Long, of Louisiana, for whom the proposed cotton holiday for 1932 is named, is urging Mississippi to declare a "no-cotton crop," like Louisiana has done, Arkansas to follow South Carolina, and then he plans to put the question up to Texas again.

Gov. Long advanced the scheme as virtual overnight higher prices for cotton in the overproduction situation provided states producing three-fourths of the American cotton crop would combine with similar legislation.

On the challenge from Gov. Ross S. Sterling, of Texas, the principal cotton-raising state, Long had the "no-cotton" law passed quickly through an extraordinary session of the Louisiana Legislature and asked the other states to "come on in" to get twenty-cent cotton for the cotton-stricken farmer.

South Carolina followed the Louisiana plan, but Texas after a furious exchange of words between Long and the Lone Star State powers started a mighty movement in favor of crop curtailment by passing a law limiting the cotton acreage to thirty per cent of the lands now in cultivation.

Mississippi's special session is at the cotton crossroads and Arkansas's lawmakers are to meet next Wednesday with other cotton-growing states looking on with the probability of passing some form of cotton relief legislation later.

FARMERS UNITE TO CHANGE U. S. MARKETING ACT

Seek Alterations, but Not Repeal.

BY PAUL POTTER.

Representatives of about two million farmers, members of the three leading farm organizations of the nation, began a united fight yesterday in the first sessions of the American Farm Bureau federation's annual convention to have congress alter the agricultural marketing act. The sessions are being held in the Hotel Sherman.

The farm board, however, will be championed by the federation, the National Grange, and the National Farmers' union, although its farm price stabilization methods have not had the approval of these groups. This was announced last night by E. A. O'Neal, president of the federation; L. J. Tabor, head of the grange, and John Simpson, president of the union.

Until this conclusion was reached, it was pointed out, the three groups have each favored a different method of controlling surpluses of farm products. They all agree that federal financing as provided in the farm marketing act "can never succeed" and they will ask amendments on this part of the act. But they will oppose any efforts to have the entire act repealed by congress.

Honor Three for Farm Service.

Last night three men were singled out by the farm bureau federation for its annual award of medals "for distinguished service to American agriculture."

Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois, received the medal, the federation announced, "largely due to the fact that he probably lost a chance for the presidency in 'fronting' for agriculture in the councils of party."

Mr. Lowden championed the equalization fee principle of surplus control in the Republican national convention at Kansas City in 1928. He has continued to support this plan, which in substance would tax each farmer in proportion to the size of the crops he markets for what farm products must be sold at a loss abroad. Mr. Lowden is to appear on the program of the federation tomorrow morning.

The other two men receiving the award were Andrew Shearer of Frankfort, Kas., long a champion of the county agricultural agent system, and E. V. Titus of Glen Cove, N. Y., called the "grand old man of New York agriculture."

Urges Research Program.

During the day Prof. M. L. Wilson, economist of Montana Agricultural college, proposed that a national research program to determine the competitive forces in agriculture be created. He advocated provision for a scientific basis for adjustments of supply" by the establishment of state and regional research councils.

"Aside from the problem of stabilizing the dollar or stabilizing prices, the stabilizing of production is the most important, and perhaps most difficult, problem in agriculture today," Prof. Wilson declared.

O'Neal Outlines Program.

President O'Neal, in his opening address, emphasized that two-thirds of the farmers are not now members of any organization and spoke of this as a challenge to organization workers. He said that by amending the agricultural marketing act to provide a method of stabilizing farm prices with the debenture for equalization fee farmers were also advocating the movement to "get the government out of business."

"The equalization fee principle will in fact put the government out of business," O'Neal said. "The cost of the marketing program utilizing the equalization fee will be borne by the farmer himself and not by the government."

Taxes get the farmer "going and coming," according to Dr. B. H. Hibbard of the University of Wisconsin, another of the day's speakers. The country over, the farmer's tax bill is close to 30 per cent of his annual income, Dr. Hibbard said.

Machine for Cotton Picking Now Perfected, Experts Report

BY GLADSTONE WILLIAMS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—Mechanical experts of the agricultural experiment stations have given assurance of the practical perfection of cotton harvesting machinery by the use of which one man, with a four-row sled, can strip 4.4 acres of cotton in a 12-hour day.

In all, the labor requirement is 2.7 man hours as against 77 man hours for hand-picking and the labor displacement is 83.5 per cent, according to recent compilations made by the bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor. In the meantime, the cotton gins have been adapted to the new method of harvesting cotton, so that sledded cotton costs no more for ginning than that which is picked by hand. The loss in quality that at first results from sledding has also been eliminated, so that the labor saving represented above is a net gain.

The perfected machinery is the result of an early idea of progressive cotton farmers who had experimented with the gathering of fallen "bollies" with a horse drag, at the same time stripping from the plants the bolls that have not fallen. The first drag was a section of picket fence, or what is called a "combination fence" in the western states, being constructed of wooden slats bound together with interwoven horizontal wires. This section of fence was dragged over the cotton rows in such manner that the wires caught the bolls, stripped them off the stems and left them lying on the wooden strips of the drag. But the drag gathered up so much rubbish that the cotton could not be ginned. Not to be discouraged the farmer ran the stuff through his threshing machine, thus cleaning out enough of the rubbish to enable the gin to separate the fiber from the remainder.

The idea was taken up by other farmers and the experts of the agricultural experiment stations got to work on it. First, a rude wooden sled was constructed, with a "V" shaped slot for catching the stalks and stripping off the bolls. The bolls were worked backward by the forward motion of the sled into a wooden box placed on the body of the sled. The first cotton sleds stripped only one row at a time, but were soon widened to cover two, three and finally four or more rows.

Until quite recently the only effective machine employed in the production of cotton was the gin, which revolutionized the industry at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Many attempts were made to devise a machine that would reduce the slow and difficult labor of picking the bolls from the stalk, but with little success. Hand picking was a very slow process and extremely costly, even where cheap labor was available. The figure given in the thirteenth annual report of the commissioner of labor is 77 man hours for picking one acre (one 500-pound bale of cotton). Between 1850 and 1863, 11 patents for cotton pickers were issued, none of which were successful. Up to the beginning of the World War in 1914 practically all cotton was harvested by hand.

Much interest will follow the installation of the perfected machinery in cotton areas where large numbers of negro cotton pickers have always been employed.

Agriculture-1931

Georgia

Condition of

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
Sunday, February 15, 1931

MACON SPEAKER URGES COTTON ACREAGE CUT

MACON, Ga., Feb. 14.—(AP)—"World conditions are shooting directly into the cotton farmer of the United States and unless he takes a zigzag course to escape the bullets he is likely to be seriously wounded," said A. F. Lever, Columbia, S. C., representative of the federal farm board, in summing up his address on "Agricultural Conditions" before an audience of negroes and whites at the Central City College, a negro institution, here Friday.

"The only dictator of the farmer is the farmer himself. The question is not one of the white farmer or the negro farmer; it is a matter for them both to work out," said Lever.

"The world markets have been buying 13,000,000 bales of cotton from the United States. There are on hand now in the warehouses and held by farmers 8,000,000 bales of cotton which means that there is on hand now only 5,000,000 less than the entire needs for 1931.

"If we produce a crop of 14,500,000 in 1931 we will be back to sweet potatoes and hickory nuts for lunch."

Mr. Lever mentioned particularly his pleasure at meeting T. M. Campbell, Tuskegee Institute, the first negro agent under the Smith-Lever bill, and Dr. C. E. Burts, whom he had known in South Carolina.

Professor Campbell, director of negro demonstration work of seven states, spoke earlier at the meeting.

"I don't like to go to these emancipation celebrations," the negro leader said, "where all the accomplishments of the negroes are related and nothing is said about the fact that negroes are dying five to every one white person. They are dying so fast because they don't know how to live. They are not making the proper progress in home life.

"Every negro who owns an automobile and not a bath tub ought to sell the car and buy a tub."

The platform was lined with hams, hay, peanuts, beans, eggs, chickens, collards, cabbage, corn and other farm products. Speakers pointed to these as evidence that farmers don't have to raise cotton.

NEWS
SAVANNAH, GA.

FEB 8 - 1931

FOR COLORED FARMERS.

Bulloch county negro farmers must surely have learned some valuable lessons at the two-day conference in Statesboro where their problems were discussed. They were told of a program which if applied to their farming, is likely to make them find some profit in their labor and some feeling that independence is possible. The basis of the program is a division of their acreage between "living" crops and "money" crops. A thirty-acre farm gives only ten acres to cotton and two to tobacco. It provides food for the farm family and feed for the farm stock. It provides for keeping something to eat on the table, whatever may happen to cotton and tobacco and it provides enough of these for cash money along in the latter part of the year. What with chickens and pigs and a cow and the needed work stock, a family ought to get along mighty well on that program.

Along with the farm crop talking was another talk, and this one was on health. What's the use of all the planning and the working unless there is health in the colored farmer's home? The unhealthy farm family could not make a profit with the finest farming advice in the world; while a healthy family has the best chance to find a profit at the end of the year with just the sort of farming advice which the Statesboro conference gave. This conference is an excellent method to adopt to give good advice where it is particularly needed; similar conferences should be held all over the state.

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
Monday, March 30, 1931

NEGROES PLAN GARDENS

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ga., March 29.—The Negro women of Jeffersonville have just held a meeting here to discuss the garden contest which they are having, in which much interest was shown in the live-at-home program. Mrs. K. J. Carswell, home demonstration agent, of Twiggs county was present and outlined the work. Following Mrs. Carswell's talk County Agent W. A. Sutton spoke on the farm program.

The contest began this month and will run through November. Exhibits of the garden products will be shown during the month of June, August and November.

In April Negro health week will be observed.

Barnesville, Ga., News-Gazette
Thursday, April 9, 1931

AND STILL MORE FEED AND FOOD

S. H. LEE,
Colored Agricultural Agent.

"For this year let us endeavor to raise plenty of feedstuff, good corn crops, hogs, melons, potatoes, gardens, and everything to eat. Plant cotton in small acreages with the land well prepared, good seed, and very highly fertilized."

These very wise words went from the pen of one of Lamar's best farmers last week through the columns of the Gazette to the colored farmers of the county, Bro. T. M. Bush. At our farmers' conference at Barnesville last February he was elected vice-president of the Lamar County Colored Farmers Improvement Club. As to whether or not he meant to, he was writing in at least a semi-official capacity.

The "'Demonstrator" is of the opinion that had Bro. Bush written a whole page in the Gazette he could not have put more wisdom into his article than is contained in the above few lines.

Just why should every Negro farmer make special efforts to "feed" himself and his stock this year? Heretofore he could borrow all the money he wanted if he could raise cotton, but that day is swiftly passing. In fact, the College of Agriculture at Athens in cooperation with the First National of Atlanta and other dominating banks of the state have already started in the direction of lending money on cows, hogs, and even chickens. This not only means feed, but especially HOME GROWN FFED.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with several of the State Colleges of Agriculture have found out the following very important facts about what it takes to feed one grown person, a mule, a cow, a hog, and hen per year. (These figures were gathered from 250 families in North Carolina, Georgia, Texas.) For each grown person: 13½ bu. of Irish and sweet potaoes, 3½ bu. of fruit, 156 lbs. of corn meal, 224 lbs. flour, 138 lbs. pork and lard, 12 lbs. beef, 57½ lbs. of poultry, 97 gal. butter milk, 17 gal. sweet milk, and 45½ lbs. butter. (The report didn't say how many pounds of green vegetables, dried peas and beans are required, but we know we need them; and no doubt by eating more of these things we can cut down on the flour, meat and lard.)) For a mule: 75 bu. of corn, 25 bu. oats, 2 tns hay, 2 acres pasture. For a cow: 15 bu. corn 10 bu. oats, 2 tons hay, 1000 lbs velvet beans, 600 lbs. C. S. meal, 2 acres pasture. For one hog: 15 bu. corn, ½ acre of pasture, 50 lbs. tankage. One hen: 18 lbs. corn, 9 lbs. oats, 9 lbs. wheat, 52 lbs. dry mash. There you have it—the food requirements of one person or animal unit of your farm for a year. Mulitply these figures by the number of persons or animals on your farm and you will at least get an idea of what you OUGHT to raise to supply yourself for a year. Oh yes, most certainly any farmer can get out for much less than the above figures call for, but the everlasting fact remains that the man who most nearly comes up to them one year after another will always be found in the best fix of any man in his community. It won't hurt you to try it.

There are a few items in the above lists I would like to stress and they are hay, pasturage, and velvet beans, for mules, cows, and hogs, (velvet beans for cows and hogs only). One bushel of velvet beans dropped two in a hill in six foot corn middles in bottoms or other good land ought to yield from two to three tons of beans, for the old cows next winter. One bushel of soy beans fertilized and drilled after grain will make from two to four tons of the finest hay. A bushel planted between the hills of corn now will make wonderful pasturage for stock next fall. Planted this way a bushel will plant from 10 to 12 acres. Don't forget the good old sorghum and peas.

The current number of the Progressive Farmer says: The soy bean is probably the most useful and profitable annual summer legume for general farm purposes. Neither cow peas nor velvet beans lend themselves to harvesting by machinery so readily as soy beans, and this character is very largely responsible for the remarkable expansion of soy bean culture."

Plant something in your garden every month, rain or shine, hot or cold. Solomon said, "I have been young, now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." Plant according to the above outline and you will certainly be RIGHT.

BACK TO THE FARM—AN EMPTY GESTURE.

"Back to the farm" is a growing battle cry, and is being taken up and sung as a relief for nation-wide depression and unemployment. And, we are just wondering if the crusaders know what they are talking about. Do they know, or have they thought about the difficulties the sojourners would have to confront and overcome to undertake to stage a general "back to the farm" movement. You cannot pick up your bed and return to the farm like you picked up your belongings and left the farm several years ago.

The farms the Negroes left for better school facilities for their children, to escape lynch law and the boll weevil are in an advanced state of decay. The houses they lived in have collapsed; fields they cultivated have grown up in weeds and briars; the barns and lots have rotted down; the old school house and church are disorganized; their neighbors, friends and relatives are dead or have moved away; and the country presents an appalling condition of devastation. Physically, farm life presents a lurid picture of decomposition and theer is no sentiment or landmark to connect the prodigal sojourner with the old farm life.

The landlord who owned the old plantation when you life is either dead or has lost it to the bank and loan company because of his inability to meet his loan

because of the fall in the price of farm products. Your old white neighbor is in bankruptcy or dead, and the old home place is a wreck and a sad memory of better days. The farmhouse is only a despairing sign of what has been; the fence and the big house have fallen victims to time and destruction, while the white landlord listens to the caprices of the peanut politician. There is no sign of the community interest that once bound the white landlord and the Negro tenant together.

If the prodigal returns to the farm, he has no place to live, no one to supply him until he can make a crop. Without money or credit, what could he do, if he flocked to the farm equal to the number John saw? What could he do without capital cr credit? We can no more live on the farm without sources of supplies than we can live in the cities without work. All this stuff about back to the farm is bunk and proposed by the demagogue because he feels it is popular. Let one of them outline how people are going to live if they return to the devastated farms of the South by setting a personal example themselves. No, it is all propaganda for popularity. Let some of the orators who are preaching, "back to the farms", as a remedy for unemployment lead the movement and show the populace how to rehabilitate devastated farms and make them grow like the green bay tree without money or credit.

Suggestion That Georgia Farms Be Given Away Protested By Holleman

Constitution

Editor, Constitution: I know that newspaper reports of public speeches are necessarily condensed and do not always convey the full meaning of the speaker. I have this in mind in reading in your paper today the remarks of Governor Hardman in Macon yesterday.

5-10-31

I find it difficult to follow Governor Hardman when he recommends that large landowners in the state should "give away" part of their holdings in blocks of a hundred acres. If Georgia farm land is so worthless that an owner can afford to give it away, of what value would it be to him to whom it might come as a gift? If the present owner cannot use it, how could it be used to advantage by anybody else? I know of nothing that will so break down the price of our lands as this statement of the governor.

We are, right now, negotiating with parties in the east who want to buy 50,000 acres in Georgia. Why should these parties consider paying money for lands in a state whose governor thinks they have reached the point where the present owner can afford to give them away?

J. T. HOLLEMAN.

Atlanta, Ga., May 9, 1931.

Helping Negro Farmers.

The current issue of Negro Extension News, issued by the extension service of the United States department of agriculture, bears striking testimony to the excellence of the work that has been accomplished among the Negro farmers of the South by means of county agents, and the responsiveness of the farmers themselves.

This publication is a development of a small bulletin originally issued at Tuskegee institute as an offcial digest of Negro extension work in Alabama. Later it was taken over by the department of agriculture and is now widely circulated.

It is pointed out that since its foundation Tuskegee institute has been somewhat of a proving station for trying out new ideas in the development of the rural life of the American Negro. The success has surpassed all expectations.

The field agent for this extension work is T. M. Campbell. The Harmon award for distinguished achievement among the Negroes in the field of farming and rural life was presented him last February. The award includes a medal and an honorarium. The presentation was made at Tuskegee.

Profssor Campbell was graduated from Tuskegee about 25 years ago and in 1906 was employed by the United States department of agriculture as demonstration agent to carry on extension work among Negro farmers living within reach of Tuskegee institute. His territory was later extended to include his present field, which is to coordinate the work of the Negro extension agents of eight southern states, including Georgia.

As an evidence of the value of this extension work among the Negro farmers in the South we are told that during the recent drought, which so seriously affected eight southern states and required extensive assistance from the Red Cross, most of those needing aid were strangers to the farm and home agents.

"It is a gratifying and striking testimonial to the value of extension work that those who have tried to follow its recommendation were generally able to live with some degree of comfort and scurity through the trying period of the drought without assistance from the Red Cross," says Negro Extension News. At the same time the length of the bread line furnished a startling revelation of the great number of farmers yet to be reached by extension influence.

The Negro Extension News is filled with striking examples of the good work that is being done in road building, conservation of the soil, the cultivation of the home garden, the raising of the hog, the cow and the hen, the beautification of the home, inside and out, as well as general improvement in the production of standard farm crops.

It is evident that the important work of making the Negro farmer of the South not only self-sustaining but prosperous is in competent hands.

HURRAH FOR COLORED PLANTERS.

From different sections of the county come the most favorable reports concerning the very fine spirit with which the negro farmers of this county are going forward with their work, and that so many of them are able, just at this time, to boast of grain crops equal to the best, cannot be otherwise than gratifying to them and the public, generally, whether they own their farms, or if they be renters. A number of reputable white men have brought us information relative to unusually fine wheat and oat patches grown by negroes this year. The way to keep the negroes on the farm and keep within their breastes the spirit of contentment and happiness, is for the white people to encourage them in every laudable endeavor—to brag on them when they achieve things worthwhile. The Monroe Kiwanis Club could do a very fine thing to sponsor a "Better Farmers Day" for the colored people of the county.

Five-Hundred-Acre Farm Sold to Negro

Constitution

5-10-31

SPARTA, Ga., May 12.—An important real estate deal was closed here yesterday by J. J. Carr, formerly of this city, but now a president of Kansas City, Mo., whereby he sold his farm of 500 acres to Professor Zack Hubert, colored, of Langston, Okla. The buyer, a Hancock county negro, bought the land for an investment and also to have a home in his native county. He is now the head of the Langston Normal College for negroes in Langston, and considered one of the leading educators of his race. He is a son of the late Zack Hubert, of this county, and has several brothers and sisters who are well known negro educators. One of his brothers, C. D. Hubert, is dean of Morehouse College in Atlanta. All members of the Hubert family own land in the northern section of the county near the tract which has just been purchased.

What Georgia Editors Say

"IT'S DIS WAY, BOSS:"

He was a Negro farmer, who rents a little place for which he agreed to pay two bales of cotton for this crop year. He had come to town in his wagon to make a few modest purchases, and was ready to start for home. Asked how he would come out on his year's farm operations, he replied:

Telegraph

"It's dis way, boss. I rented a little piece o' land wid a two-room house an' a little barn on it, an' I reckon I'm gwine come out pretty well, thank de Lawd. I owns my mule and wagon, and I promised to pay de man I rents from two bales o' cotton. I made three bales, an' dat leaves me one to sell.

"I made a nice crap o' peanuts, but I don't want to sell 'em at dese present prices lessen I haf' to. I'm gwine let my hogs gather part o' de crap—yessir, I got hogs. I'll make meat enough to run me right on through nex' summer. I got plenty o' corn an' fodder for my mule, plenty o' sweet potatoes, an' I'm gwine make my own syrup. Dey's some pecan trees on de place, an' de white man tol' me I could have de nuts. Dey's all seedin's. I hopes to sell a few hund'ed poun's, an' keep enough fer me an' the ol' woman an' de two chillun.

"Course meat and bread an' sweet potatoes an' syrup an pecans ain't no king's rations, but dey mean we ain't gwine go hungry in de winter. We saved some dried peas an' butter beans, I got a good collard patch, an' I 'spect to sell de yuther bale o' cotton long 'bout Chris'mus time. I sho' worked hard, an' so did de ole woman an' my oldes' boy. I don't see much money comin' in—maybe enough for some shoes an' a little sugar an' coffee an' terbacker, but—well, boss, I reckon I ain't got no right to complain."

Which proves that diversification works out pretty well, even in years when the price of farm produce is greatly depressed, and we have an idea that most persons will agree with the Negro farmer that he has "come out pretty well."—Albany Herald

Agriculture—1931

Georgia.

Condition of.

Georgians From All Over State Express Views on Cotton

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The cotton situation can be relieved without the passage of a single new law. In fact, the patient would be better served if the legal doses were abated. Our bankers hold the key to the entire situation. All crops are produced largely on credit financing, and our bankers can dictate to the bale, bushel and acre the quantity and character of crop in any locality. They can also advise the cropper what substitute crops to plant and advance credit to produce the substitute crop. If they fail to do this they are recreant to their responsibility of leadership. They owe this duty to the communities whose moneys they handle and on whose interest charges they profit.

The bankers should also finance the planters and croppers on the present surplus so that they will reap the benefit of any rise in values on account of the sacrifice of no or partial planting statutes.

There will never be any permanent stability in the export trade of basic commodities without international accord governing the export allotment of each surplus-producing nation.

With the foreign market stabilized and the export tonnage of basic commodities known at least a year in advance of each planting, it would be a simple matter to determine our domestic requirements and allocate production equitably among the states. A reasonable surplus would have to be carried each year as insurance against crop shortages and other casualties.

E. STANHOPE.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 16, 1931.

Legislation Would Not Help Solve the Problem

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The British government and the Russians would ask nothing more for their cotton interests than that we bar the planting of cotton in 1932, because England and its colonies for years and years have been looking forward to the time when they could take away from us our cotton supremacy.

We southerners can work out this cotton situation without legislation from various states.

E. F. PORTER.

Editor Constitution: I have just read your editorial of August 27, "Fate of the Farm Board," with much interest.

The farm board and its crazy policies, and the many volunteer nostrums being put forth in the names of "farm relief" are putting the cart before the horse. Each act is designed to extend over-confidence to producers and rob the buying end of the market of confidence.

Thus far everything done in the name of "farm relief" has had as its purpose and effect the whacking of buyers over the head.

Here is the tragic position of cotton today:

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During all that period foreign producers of cotton were encouraging buyers in every way they could. In 1928-29 the world consumed only 10,800,000 foreign grown bales; but in 1930-31 the figure rose to 11,575,000 bales. A gain of 775,000 bales in annual consumption.

The world is now consuming 668,000 more foreign grown than United States grown bales annually.

Not many years ago the United States supplied 70 per cent and foreign fields 30 per cent of the world's need.

Low prices are bad enough, but they are temporary.

Loss of markets to competitors is tragic in the extreme.

Were the highly organized and fully financed merchandising system free to function normally it would use the huge surplus and current low price to restore world's markets for American cotton. It would do this by inducing investors and consumers to take more cotton than the world's current need.

The merchandising system is fully capable of absorbing the entire surplus. This is so because as cotton is bought, hedges are sold. The long end of such hedges is carried by investors who know that cotton—and futures—bought at less than cost of production will prove good investment if the channels of trade be not interfered with by the attempts of government to set aside natural law.

Obviously then, if the surplus is to be disposed of in a satisfactory way, business must be freed of shackles and be permitted to function again.

It is high time the nostrum boys were stepped on hard, and that the government was taken out of business.

Instead, business is menaced by government-held stabilization stocks, by the threat of production regulation by law, by the threat of legislation prohibiting future trading, which would destroy the hedge and the daily cash market, and by the debenture and equalization plans, the purpose of which is to dump subsidized commodities on the world's market.

Under these circumstances, nobody wants to buy cotton.

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K. E. EDWARDS.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 16, 1931.

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In regard to "Mayar," the only bad thing about this play is its location. You have to walk up five flights of steps and then be ushered into a dingy little place resembling a child's playroom. There is no elevator and fat people are always late in arriving. The play itself is well produced, but rather morbid. Still, why ban plays today when every young person is conversant with the ways of the world!

Cafe life as seen in France and Germany will never be known to Americans who have not been to Europe. It does not exist in England, but seems to be confined to those countries where it is warm enough in summer to sit out in the open and where light wines, beer and coffee are the drinks usually served.

Our own climate in Atlanta is splendidly suited for this life but we lack some of the other ingredients. Even before the time of prohibition, this cafe life never existed in America. It is the easy-going, lazy life in this part of the country. Such a life is unknown to us where a hustling business world monopolizes all the activities of our people. It would be an unheard-of thing for business houses to close two hours in the middle of a working day in order to enjoy an hour or two of rest and eating.

In spite of all this, however, one never sees a person intoxicated. It seems to the writer that no better argument could be adduced for the repeal of the eighteenth amendment in the United States than the recognition of this fact.

The Cafe de la Paix is the democratic center of all Paris. There are few Americans who have ever visited this city who will not remember this place. With its three rows of chairs and tables; its mixture of every nationality in the world; its little saucers containing the drinks with the prices, thus doing away with the need of speaking French; the "pot man," holding in one hand a pot of coffee and in the other a pot of milk; the various trysting couples and meeting place for both young and old; the old man picking up the cigaret stumps and putting them in his pocket; the frowzy old woman selling the evening papers; the American debutant smoking her cigaret and sipping her vermouth and gin like an old habitue; the clatter of busses and the roar of taxis, while ever and anon you hear the familiar sound "paper from your home town;" these and a thousand other incidents make this place the hub of the universe.

C. J. Callaway Urges Holiday, Gives Reasons

Editor Constitution: I sent a wire to Governor Sterling on the morning of September 16 stating that I believed if the complete holiday plan was legislated that this crop of cotton would net the farmer 15 cents a pound, that if any modification of the complete holiday plan was generally passed that this crop of cotton would net the farmer not more than 6 cents a pound, that we were ginning around 200,000 bales a day, and taking into consideration that the producer was selling one-third of it as ginned, that he was losing $3,000,000 a day for every day that the complete holiday plan was not passed.

This opinion in the foregoing telegram was based on my experience with the attitude of consumers of cotton as follows: The complete holiday would mean a positive and tremendous reduction in acreage next year and would give the buying public confidence; a modification, no matter how drastic, would not mean a total reduction in acreage next year and would not bring confidence.

I believe this opinion is conservatirely correct. Looking at the next two years, if this opinion is correct, the producer would receve $1,520,000,000 for this crop under the complete holiday, and without it he would receive $450,000,000 for this crop. We can expect next year, without any legislation whatever, 10,000,000 bales of cotton and an average price of 9 cents a pound, which would be $450,000,000 for next year's crop and $450,000,000 for this crop, or a total of $900,000,000, or $225,000,000 less for the next two crops without the holiday than we would receive for this crop with the holiday.

I believe that the modification, if passed, would have the result of more cotton being planted next year instead of less, since, if the law of supply and demand is interfered with and no drastic plan is given in its place, we will have a bigger acreage next year than if no legislation is passed.

In this event we should get 13,000,000 bales next year with an average price of 4 cents a pound or $260,000,000, which added to the $450,000,000 for this year would give a total of $710,000,000 for the two crops, or a loss of $415,000,000 in comparison to the total holiday plan.

When, several weeks ago, I first considered the complete holiday, I was opposed to it and I began drawing up my reasons against it. After completing my reasons against it, I began putting down reasons in favor of it and the weight was so decidedly in favor of the complete holiday, in comparison with any modification of it, that I reversed my opinion. The more I have thought of it since that time, the more convinced I am that this is true.

Against the complete holiday plan, we have, first, the increase of foreign growth; second, the decrease in consumption; third, the acquiring by foreign countries of a part of our foreign markets due to this increased growth. In thinking this matter over, however, I do not believe that the foreign countries, due to their transportation facilities and history, could possibly increase their growth more than 2,000,000 bales on account of the price being 15 cents instead of 6 cents, and if they do not increase more than 2,000,000 bales, they certainly could not take more than 2,000,000 bales of our business, which, at worst, is only a small per cent of our regular exports.

For the advantages, first, the $675,000,000 additional money in the hands of the producers of this crop would

Urges Weevil Eradication To Aid Sea Island Cotton

Editor Constitution: Sea Island cotton was formerly the money crop of 30 or more counties along the Georgia coast and in south Georgia, and also extensively grown in about 20 other counties in south Georgia. The boll weevil destroyed this great industry. If no cotton were grown in the cotton belt for one year, the boll weevil would be eradicated. This would then be revived.

CASON J. CALLAWAY.

LaGrange, Ga., Sept. 19, 1931.

Agriculture—1931

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Two plays are now being produced in Paris which are advertised as having been prohibited in England. This, of course, is a great advertisement and helps to swell the box office receipts. All Americans, of course, are anxious to see them.

One is called "Mayar" and the other "The Well of Loneliness." Just why England should have shown such a critical attitude towards these plays is a mystery. "The Well of Loneliness" is a psycho-medical play a la Kraft Ebig, and is not to be compared to other immoral productions which one sees in London. It leaves one with a distinctly sociological and moral impression of the present-day attitude of the mass of people towards diseased perverts. It should really be seen by every one, but especially by preachers and doctors.

In regard to "Mayar," the only bad thing about this play is its location. You have to walk up five flights of steps and then be ushered into a dingy little place resembling a child's playroom. There is no elevator and fat people are always late in arriving. The play itself is well produced, but rather morbid. Still, why ban plays today when every young person is conversant with the ways of the world! Cafe life as seen in France and Germany will never be known to Americans who have not been to Europe. It does not exist in England, but seems to be confined to those countries where it is warm enough in summer to sit out in the open and where light wines, beer and coffee are the drinks usually served.

Our own climate in Atlanta is splendidly suited for this life but we lack some of the other ingredients. Even before the time of prohibition, this cafe life never existed in America. It is the easy-going, lazy life of this part of the country. Such a life is unknown to us where a hustling business world monopolizes all the activities of our people. It would be an unheard-of thing for business houses to close two hours in the middle of a working day in order to enjoy an hour or two of rest and eating.

In spite of all this, however, one never sees a person intoxicated. It seems to the writer that no better argument could be adduced for the repeal of the eighteenth amendment in the United States than the recognition of this fact.

The Cafe de la Paix is the democratic center of all Paris. There are few Americans who have ever visited this city who will not remember this place. With its three rows of chairs and tables; its mixture of every nationality in the world; its little saucers containing the drinks with the prices, thus doing away with the need of speaking French; the "pot man," holding in one hand a pot of coffee and in the other a pot of milk; the various trysting couples and meeting place for both young and old; the old man picking up the cigaret stumps and putting them in his pocket; the frowzy old woman selling the evening papers; the American debutant smoking her cigaret and sipping her vermouth and gin like an old habitue; the clatter of busses and the roar of taxis, while ever and anon you hear the familiar sound "paper from your home town;" these and a thousand other incidents make this place the hub of the universe.

C. J. Callaway Urges Holiday, Gives Reasons

Editor Constitution: I sent a wire to Governor Sterling on the morning of September 16 stating that I believed if the complete holiday plan was legislated that this crop of cotton would net the farmer 15 cents a pound, that if any modification of the complete holiday plan was generally passed that this crop of cotton would net the farmer not more than 6 cents a pound, that we were ginning around 200,000 bales a day, and taking into consideration that the producer was selling one-third of it as ginned, that he was losing $3,000,000 a day for every day that the complete holiday plan was not passed.

This opinion in the foregoing telegram was based on my experience with the attitude of consumers of cotton as follows: The complete holiday would mean a positive and tremendous reduction in acreage next year and would give the buying public confidence; a modification, no matter how drastic, would not mean a total reduction in acreage next year and would not bring confidence.

I believe this opinion is conservatively correct. Looking at the next two years, if this opinion is correct, the producer would receve $1,520,000,000 for this crop under the complete holiday, and without it he would receive $450,000,000 for this crop. We can expect next year, without any legislation whatever, 10,000,000 bales and an average price of 9 cents a pound, which would be $450,000,000 for this crop, or a total of $900,000,000, or $225,000,000 less for the next two crops without the holiday.

I believe that the modification, if passed, would have the result of more cotton being planted next year instead of less, since, if the law of supply and demand is interfered with and no drastic plan is given in its place, we will have a bigger acreage next year than if no legislation is passed.

In this event we should get 13,000,000 bales next year with an average price of 4 cents a pound or $260,000,000, which added to the $450,000,000 for this year would give a total of $710,000,000 for the two crops, or a loss of $415,000,000 in comparison to the total holiday plan.

When, several weeks ago, I first considered the complete holiday, I was opposed to it and I began drawing up my reasons against it. After completing my reasons against it, I began putting down reasons in favor of it and the weight was so decidedly in favor of the complete holiday, in comparison with any modification of it, that I reversed my opinion. The more I have thought of it since that time, the more convinced I am that this is true.

Against the complete holiday plan, we have, first, the increase of foreign growth; second, the decrease in consumption; third, the acquiring by foreign countries of a part of our foreign markets due to this increased growth. In thinking this matter over, however, I do not believe that the foreign countries, due to their transportation facilities and history, could possibly increase their growth more than 2,000,000 bales on account of the price being 15 cents instead of 6 cents, and if they do not increase more than 2,000,000 bales, they certainly could not take more than 2,000,000 bales of our business, which, at worst, is only a small per cent of our regular exports.

For the advantages, first, the $675,000,000 additional money in the hands of the producers of this crop would bring a substantially higher price than without the cotton holiday.

I could go on and on and put down additional disadvantages and additional advantages, but for every disadvantage I find many advantages. So as the more I go into the foregoing, the more satisfied I am in my mind that the complete holiday would be tremendously beneficial to the south and that a modification of it would be detrimental to the south.

CASON J. CALLAWAY.

LaGrange, Ga., Sept. 19, 1931.

Urges Weevil Eradication To Aid Sea Island Cotton

Editor Constitution: Sea Island cotton was formerly the money crop of a number of counties along the coast and in south Georgia. So as to more completely bring the subject in the foregoing telegram to the attention of the public, I will state that I think that the complete holiday would have the result of more than doubling the land of fertility and that a modification of it would be detrimental to the south. If no cotton were grown in the cotton belt for one year, the boll weevil would be eradicated. This great industry could then be revived, and since the southern lands would

and add a most valuable money crop, and further help in diversification of crops in that section of the state as well as in Florida and South Carolina.

Sea Island cotton is the best long staple cotton ever produced, and is now in these days of automobiles and airplanes needed much more than in the past. The revival of this industry would be of worldwide benefit.

The boll weevil has on the average doubled the cost of the production of short staple cotton. To save this cost is full warrant for prohibiting the growth of cotton for one year under quarantine regulations. Quarantine is the exercise of police powers. There is no limitation in the constitution of any of the states over the exercise of the police powers by the legislature, and the states have not surrendered their police powers to the federal government under the United States constitution. Any plan to prohibit the growing of cotton for one year, as a quarantine measure to get rid of the boll weevil, Texas flea and other pests, would be constitutional.

ROBERT C. ELLIS,
Former Member of Legislature from Tift County.

More "Home Production" Is the Only Solution

Editor Constitution: We will never solve the cotton situation of overproduction until the farmers make up their mind to solve it themselves. This question can and must be solved and worked out by the individual southern farmer. The farmer must raise his cotton as a surplus and not as a necessity. He must learn the lesson of going to town with his wagon loaded with products from his farm and coming back home empty. The "Long plan" will not stand the test of the courts.

Put on a program of back-to-home production in each county in the south and this question of overproduction of cotton will be solved.

J. S. EDWARDS.
Rockmart, Ga., Sept. 15, 1931.

Georgia Would Prosper As Cattle-Raising State

Editor Constitution: The salvation of the south lies in the curtailment of cotton so that the people can learn to raise something else. Why not make Georgia a dairy state?

Alfalfa is a legume that puts ammonia back in the soil and makes very inexpensive fodder. Alfalfa is being raised very satisfactorily on the experimental farms at Tifton. Georgia needs cattle both for fertilizer and for food. Georgia needs milk products badly to balance a one-sided diet and to help prevent disease. As a sign reads in Arkansas, "Prosperity follows the dairy cow."

PHYLLIS D. LEWIS.
Emory University, Ga.,
Sept. 17, 1931.

Louisianan Urges Tea In Place of Cotton

Editor Constitution: I have just arrived here with the purpose of planting tea on an industrial scale. Considering the condition of the markets of the staple crops of the southern states at the present time, the opportune moment has arrived for the introduction of a new crop, more so for a crop which has the approval of the United States agricultural department. Since 1858 up to 1911, tea has been grown experimentally and commercially and results have proved it well worth the interest of the agriculturist.

No experimental work has to be done in regard to tea culture and manufacture. All this work has been successfully accomplished by the United States agricultural department. The climate of the gulf and southern states is in general admirably suited to the cultivation of tea.

Working on the financial report of one of the leading British tea companies in Assam and the speed and capabilities of modern agricultural machinery, these figures are arrived at: For tilling, plucking and pruning 1,000 acres in Assam, the sum of $47,987 is absorbed, whilst in this country, with mechanical means, and allowing for four times the amount of tilling as is necessary in Assam $14,632 would be accounted for. Opportunity is right at the door. America imports over 100,000,000 pounds of tea annually, which retails at 80 cents per pound and up. There is in the region of $40,0000,000 going out of the country which should be coming to the agriculturists of these states.

F. ARTHUR-HILL.
New Orleans, La., Sept. 15, 1931.

Favors Cotton Holiday To Eliminate Weevil

Editor Constitution: I am advised by informed representatives of the departments of agriculture that a cotton holiday for one year will actually eliminate the boll weevil. If this were not true I would not be in favor of it. I believe it will.

I know that it will be proper to legislate not only against cotton but every other plant on which the boll weevil feeds, which includes okra. I am now seeking information from the department as to all plants on which the boll weevil may feed.

Legislation should be based on the elimination of the pest and not on the regulation of price or production.

If the boll weevil can be eliminated this way, let us picture what the Georgia farmer may anticipate in the production of cotton.

He will not have to hurry planting, nor fertilize highly. In some instances he may not have to fertilize at all. He will have a growing season from June till frost. The stalk will fruit from bottom to top. The cotton will open orderly and can be picked all season and will not have to be picked all at once. Labor conditions gathering cotton should not be disturbed as now when the cotton is all open at once. The staple can be increased in length and thus bring from one to three cents a pound more. Long staple cotton can be produced again in Georgia and again produce wealth to its growers as it did in the past. Cotton will be a more dependable security on which to base business. It will, developing better staple, be more satisfactory to the ginners, compresses and in its production it will be more satisfactory to the ginners, compresses and oil mills, and, in fact, it will become a great stabilizer of business in the south.

I admit that one year's suspension of cotton will work a hardship on the gins, compresses and oil mills, but there is no reason to believe that this would actually happen, or, if it did happen, that it would seriously disturb business, as these industries can weather one year, marking time as easily as the farmers have the last two. The oil mills could use peanuts instead of cottonseed, and this would be a great help to the peanut market.

It is argued that if we eliminate the boll weevil there will be an overproduction of cotton. The answer to this is we now have an overproduction with the boll weevil. The further answer is that without the boll weevil the increased crop will have been made without much expense, with the boll weevil at great expense. The question of overproduction is not involved, in my opinion, in the elimination of the boll weevil, because we have had overproduction both with and without it.

Legislation for the reduction of cotton production next year is not necessary. For instance, in 1914 and 1915 we observed the small crop following a large one of low price. Again we saw this in 1920 and 1921, where a 50 per cent reduction was had. Again, to some extent, this happened in 1926 and 1927. All of these reductions were had without legislation. If we are seeking a reduction of the cotton crop instead of looking to the future with the elimination of the boll weevil and the blessings thereof, then we may as well pass up all legislation and all of the hysteria that is now going on will amount to nothing.

It seems to me proper to eliminate all cotton by legislation or let it alone entirely.

L. L. MOORE.
Senator from 47th District.
Moultrie, Ga., Sept. 15, 1931.

Long Plan Only One That Will "Hold Water"

Editor Constitution: We must have the cotton holiday. There is no middle ground—the situation is desperate and cannot be remedied by half-way measures such as reducing acreage etc., which will result only in failure to do anything.

The Long plan is the only one out of the multitude that have been proposed that will "hold water"—let's have it or else let bad enough alone. It at least offers the hope of early improvement in price of cotton and that is the crying need of the cotton farmer at this time.

P. W. VAUGHN,
Cashier Griffin Banking Co.
Williamson, Ga., Sept. 14, 1931.

Advocates Back to Farm Movement for Farmers

Editor Constitution: The destiny of the nation is in the farmer's hands. It is for him to work out his own salvation. He has looked too long to others for relief.

We farmers spend too much time in these towns. We have too many automobiles and spend too much time on the roads. Let us get back to the verities. Hard work and self-denial will restore our independence.

It is imperative that we go back to the principle of producing our own livings first, and then we must gauge our standards of living to the exchange value of our surplus. Let us determine to own our farms. Let us resolve to dispense with all luxuries that we cannot afford.

When we leave the sidewalks to industrial workers and town folks; the roads to bankers and merchants; the drugstore chairs and tables to cake-eaters and flappers; stay on our farms six days in the week and study out our own problems, then we will be what our Creator intended us to be, God's noblemen and nature's masters.

W. R. TAPP.
Powder Springs, Ga.,
Sept. 14, 1931.

Legal Restraint Not Needed for Reduction

Editor Constitution: No plan for the solution of the cotton problem will work that does not provide sufficient money to take the new crop entirely off the market by loans to the growers at low rates of interest for long time.

Legislation by states, prohibiting the growing of cotton in 1932 will not cause the price of cotton to advance as much as a penny a pound. English cotton interests have dictated the price of American cotton for 100 years or more, excepting three short periods of time. They, as well as textile interests all over the world, buy cotton as they sell their cloth output. With two years' supply of cotton on hand, and in sight, there is no fear on their part of a cotton famine being nearer than January 1, 1934, if they knew there would not be a bale grown in America next year.

Cotton land owners, bankers and merchants can hold back the marketing of cotton for 60 or 90 days, which will help the price of higher grades of cotton.

Cotton growers of America raised less than an 8,000,000-bale crop in 1922 and less than a 10,000,000-bale crop in 1923, and less than 11,000,000 bales in 1924 without legislative restraint.

BEN F. LOYD.
Shreveport, La., Sept. 11, 1931.

Agriculture – 1931

Georgia.

Condition of.

What of the Share Croppers?

In every section that I visit the chief topic of conversation among the farmers is the cotton acreage problem for 1932. Undoubtedly the majority are for the Long plan—that is, to cut cotton out entirely for one year. However, there is a large class who think it will be best to simply cut the acreage 50 per cent. Those farmers rightly argue that the Long plan will add many millions in the country to the unemployed class that live in the cities and it will make a serious situation to provide food for them for the next 12 months.

Last week I was at Camilla down in Mitchell county, Georgia. This county has many large farmers and these men are preparing to change their farming plan no matter what the legislatures of the various Southern states may do. For instance, I'll take three farmers. One has been running 30 plows. He is going to cut down to 6. One woman has been running 30; she will cut to 10. One farmer has had 50 plows; he is going to run only twenty next year. As soon as the cotton crop is gathered he is going to call these 30 croppers together and tell them he cannot furnish them for 1932; but if they want to stay there are the mules and the land. He will not make any renting contract but they can take those mules and land and make something to live on. All he will furnish them is some seed other than cotton to plant. He is going to advise sowing turnip and collard seed right away; then sowing both wheat and oats. He said: "Some of these Negroes have lived with me for 30 years and I cannot turn them out of a home but they must grow their own food supply for 1932."

I like this man's plan. It is considerate and wise. As a rule, the Southern farmer has always been kind to his labor, and this farmer is showing the same kindness in making his plan. I hope to see some concerted plan adopted by all the cotton growing states. It will prove far more satisfactory in the end. But the individual farmer should begin to shape his own affairs for a 50 per cent cut in the cotton acreage for 1932, or next fall we will see cotton selling for 3 cents per pound, and then our farmers will be complaining! —Uncle Fred, in Southern Rurallist.

We Hopeful Crackers.

From the Tifton Gazette.

We heard a fellow say one time that these Georgia crackers are the most hopeful folks in the world—that they just live on hope They make a crop, sell it at a loss, hope they will do better next year and make another crop to sell at a loss. Now and then they make a profitable crop, but it takes all the profits from it to pay up interest, back taxes and old accounts, and they don't get ahead because they make another series of crops to sell at a loss, and keep on living and hoping but never getting anywhere except to the grave.

Another well informed man says that the only way the Georgia farmer as a whole ever will become prosperous is for conditions to reach such a point that he can't buy a thing on credit and can't borrow money anywhere, and will have to make a living on the farm and produce something on the farm to sell every time he wants to buy anything. It begins to look like this theory is going to get a good test next year.

Back in the fall of 1929, when this thing first started, two negroes were talking over the situation. One is quoted as explaining the times thusly: "We're going to have two years of this and then we are going to have a panic." If it were put to a vote we imagine the general opinion would be that the negro was right.

Speaking of hope again, most folks were hoping the no-cotton plan would be voted but Texas killed that hope and now the only hope is that conditions won't get any worse, and that they may get better some day. The improvement may come within a few months or it may be a few years. Who knows?

Two negroes were discussing the plan for no cotton when one remarked: "Cotton is the only thing a nigger ever got any money out of. Course we ain't got nothing out of it this year, but if we don't plant cotton next year we won't even have no thought of no money."

It looks like the solution to the whole thing is to forget the thought about making any money farming, and just decide to make the best living possible—without hope or expectation of money. Then if by accident there is a profit it will be a pleasant surprise.

Jefferson, Ga., Herald
Thursday, October 22, 1931

LIVE-AT-HOME PROGRAM AIDS NEGRO FARMERS

(By E. L. Cooper, Negro Agriculture Agent)

Negro farmers of Clarke, Jackson, and Oconee counties are beginning to reap the profits of the live-at-home campaign that was launched in the early spring. Of the 168 farmers that were visited during the last three weeks 143 of them had on hand a sufficient quantity of corn, sweet potatoes, syrup, hay, preserved fruits and vegetables, and other food and feeds to fully supply their needs during the coming winter.

Seventeen farmers also had a surplus of 600 gallons of syrup and 300 bushels of sweet potatoes for market. Despite the drought they had carefully cropped, planting and replanting selected spots, and kept the home garden alive. One hundred and seventeen of these farmers had made arrangements for sowing an aggregate of 526 acres to oats, wheat, and rye in order to ensure themselves against buying feed next spring.

To show what is being done in this territory an exhibition of this year's harvest and last winter's cured meat was made at the Southeastern Fair that was held in Atlanta last week. Twenty country-cured and hickory smoked hams and 500 ears of selected corn made up the bulk of this exhibit. There were $81.50 in prizes awarded for the quality of these products. The cured meat exhibit ranked second for the state being surpassed only by Peach county, a county that produces all meat needed for local consumption. The corn ranked third for the state; 215 pieces of meat, 7,440 ears of corn, 120 dozens of selected eggs, and twenty-one pens of live-poultry were put on display by Negro farmers of Georgia.

Grady Casts Off Cotton Yoke And Embraces Diversification

South Georgia County Has Achieved Place in the Sun Through Five Years' Effort.

BY ROY ROBERT.

CAIRO, Ga., Nov. 14.—From a position of one of those south Georgia counties where toil was expended to produce cotton crops for little or no profit, to a place in the sun of prosperity is the record of Grady county in the period of the last five years.

as New Jersey and Florida. Only 20,000 in population, Grady county manages a "live-at-home" program of efficiency and comfort.

Good Farm Conditions.

The paradox of like and unlike might be aptly applied to Grady county with its winding smooth roads and broad fertile acres. Casual inspection could result in the opinion that here is another one of south Georgia's moderately applied to Grady county will tell you, made the stride possible. Agriculture in its widest possibilities has come to mean diversification for Grady county, and now, 1931 finds the county, a supposedly cotton-growing area, producing vast quantities of farm produce, the list of which reads like the production of a nation, so far as variety is concerned. From the like marketing methods, the citizens of crops and business-expanding his resources, and is therefore contentedly All of which does not mean that Grady county has abandoned her former staple crops. On the contrary, certain lines are increasing and this year more than 2,000,000 pounds of pecans of highest quality will find a way to world markets to bring the county at least $300,000 in coin.

The two leading pecan dealers in Cairo are F. A. Richter & Sons and W. H. Robinson, both of which firms operate large packing and shipping plants. In addition to nuts shipped in the shell, the fancy grades are shelled by hand and sold at a high price to confectioners.

Turn to New Products.

Tobacco, peanuts, cane and cotton, farmer during the recent trying years, has given way before the march in moderate quantities, also move to of diversification. So complete is markets of the nation in a profitable that diversification, hardly 2,000 bales stream. Yet, it is of other things that of cotton is annually produced in a Grady county citizens talk of now—county which could, if of a mind, since a new and comparably limitless produce 10 times as much. The market has been found for other products. Grady county farmer is wise in his ucts which can be successfully grown program of variety—and he knows he there.

Agriculture – 1931

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Georgia.

Jefferson, Ga. Herald
Thursday, October 29, 1931

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Diversification of crops and business-like marketing methods, the citizens will tell you, made the stride possible. Agriculture in its widest possibilities has come to mean diversification for Grady county, and now, 1931 finds the county, a supposedly cotton-growing area, producing vast quantities of farm produce, the list of which reads like the production of a nation, so far as variety is concerned. From the old-established custom of producing cotton, pecans, tobacco, cane and peanuts, also move to markets of the nation in a profitable stream. Yet, it is of other things that Grady county citizens talk of now—since a new and comparably limitless market has been found for other products which can be successfully grown there.

Good Farm Conditions.

The paradox of like and unlike might be aptly applied to Grady county with its winding smooth roads and broad fertile acres. Casual inspection could result in the opinion that here is another one of south Georgia's moderately prosperous sections, but a closer look into farm conditions, bank resources and excellence of citizenry will reveal happy surprises.

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The two leading pecan dealers in Cairo are F. A. Richter & Sons and W. H. Robinson, both of which firms operate large packing and shipping plants. In addition to nuts shipped in the shell, the fancy grades are shelled by hand and sold at a high price to confectioners.

The term "limitless market" is used advisedly, for this year Grady county received more orders for peppers, okra, lima beans, collard seeds, sweet potatoes, string beans, cabbages and many other garden products than could be supplied. The "oversupply" problem has not affected the citizens.

One of the newest and most amazing farm developments ever in Georgia was explained by R. V. Crine, operator of Crine Enterprises, when he gave figures on tomato plant production which brought to his farms this year $27,466.44 for plants grown there. The plants are purchased on contract by an eastern food products company at a price of 40 per cent more than is ordinarily paid for them. Mr. Crine said the high quality of Grady county plants accounted for the fancy price.

Tomato-Producing Industry.

The history of the tomato-producing industry in Grady is one of interesting figures. Beginning in 1920 by giving his plants away as samples, Mr. Crine averaged little more than $1,000 a year for the first three years. In 1924 the tomato plant came into its own and tripled in revenue. The growth since has been amazing.

This year Grady county will produce near $4,000,000 worth of farm products, exclusive of income from other sources, including naval stores and other forest products. The three banks of Cairo have more than $1,000,000 in deposits and there is hardly a vacant store or residence in the county seat or the farm sections of the county. Farm paper is being liquidated in the banks in a surprisingly regular manner and foreclosures on land loans are almost unknown in recent years.

All of which halts any talk of "depression" such as is heard in so many sections. There is no reference to "the good old times" and if such were to be discussed the citizens would tell you in positive terms that Cairo has never experienced a bank failure. Postoffice receipts are near $20,000 annually and a majority of the 2,189 farms are owned by farmers who have been thoroughly convinced of the "live-at-home" program.

Cairo Thriving City.

Cairo is a thriving little city of 3,169 citizens, according to the 1930 census, a 66 per cent increase over the population of 1920, when government figures showed 1,908 people. The town presents an unusual appearance in contrast with the average small Georgia city. Wide paved streets, modern and clean stores attest the progressiveness of the merchants and businessmen.

One notable feature of Cairo progressiveness was related in the history of the new First Methodist church building there. A handsome structure that would be a credit to a city of ten times Cairo's population, the building was planned, full payment subscribed, built, occupied and paid for within five months. However, that is only one feature of development.

Handsome school buildings reflect the high type of those who make the place their home and develop those things which will mean a richer life. Probably no city of its size in the state can point to a better organized system of education and the bright type of boys and girls gives first-hand evidence that efforts in educational work have not been wasted.

Much Harvesting Left.

There is much harvesting yet to be done on the highly diversified 1931 crop but a glance at last year's market lists show surprising results as follows: 500,000 pounds of collard seed (and here it is reminded that Grady county produces 90 per cent of the world's supply of collard seed); 25,000 pounds of turnip seed; $470,000 worth of tobacco; 30,000 barrels of cane syrup; 6,000 tons of peanuts; poultry and eggs value of $175,000; 2,000,000 pounds of pecans; beef and dairy cattle value of $60,000; $200,000 worth of sweet potatoes; 3,000 barrels of sorghum syrup; $10,000 worth of citrus fruits; $500,000 worth of oats, corn and hay grown for markets; nursery stock, $50,000; hogs, $250,000; $225,000 worth of cotton and cottonseed.

One of the greatest developments in diversified farming in Grady county is the extensive growth of citrus fruits. The Satsuma orange industry is beginning to flourish and J. B. Wight, horticulturist, who operates a large nursery for pecans as well as many other plants, has positively demonstrated that the Satsuma will grow as well in South Georgia—at least in Grady county—as the round orange does in Florida.

Tung Oil Development.

From his trees on an acre and three-quarters he sold more than $2,000 worth of oranges in 1930. On Mr. Wight's farm is also grown grape fruit that rivals the size and equals the flavor of recognized citrus fruit areas.

It is Mr. Wight, too, who has gone far in developing the tung oil industry and his nursery supplied a majority of the 200,000 trees which now flourish on the farms of the county. One oustanding feature of tung oil production is the fact that other crops can and should be grown in the spaces between the Chinese plant.

J. M. Hughes, secretary of the Grady County Chamber of Commerce, prepared and published a booklet on the possibilities of tung oil production in that section and demonstrated with figures that the innovation is successfully launched and has gone beyond the experimental stage.

The tung tree is indigenous to China but bids fair to become one of America's leading farm industries. The oil is used in varnishes and domestic consumption will take care of millions of trees. The oldest tung nut tree in this country stands on the Wight farm.

Production of diversified farm products naturally called for a co-operative form of marketing. Experience of distributing the largest syrup crop in the United States in the territory surrounding Cairo, convinced farmers that businesslike methods were necessary. Now, practically every product goes through a co-operative or a semi-co-operative market.

Small Unit Favored.

Careful study of the systems used in marketing produce reveals that small-unit farming has been encouraged, and now a majority of the farms in Grady county are of the small type, averaging about 100 acres in size. The old plantation is a thing of the past and there are no farms operated by men living in the city—which is a departure from systems used in many other South Georgia sections.

Mr. Hughes gave other figures showing that five years ago there were more than 400 farmers in the county who did not have chickens, hogs, gardens and milk cows. Now there are less than fifty of the improvident type of agriculturist, and Cairo bankers lend money to farmers on the basis of their ability to feed their families and stock with home-grown produce. Such an atttitude on the part of bankers has, of course, been of much assistance in developing the efficient diversification program.

Notwithstanding the "live-at-home" system used by the farmers, the fact remains, leading citizens and bankers declared, that Mr. Crine and the example he has set has been largely responsible for the prosperity of the people.

Six years ago Mr. Crine began operations in and near Cairo and his success has led the way for many developments in the diversification system. It was his idea that various crops could be grown, canned, pickled and marketed at profit. His first experiments were with okra, butter beans, snapbeans, peppers, etc. He also began extensive operations in dairying and later developed his tomato plant industry.

20,000,000 Plants Marketed.

This year he marketed 20,000,000 tomato plants and 3,000,000 pounds of okra, in addition to $20,000 worth of dairy products. His is only a small part of Grady county effort but because of his specific plan, his part is unusually interesting.

On the ten farms operated by Mr. Crine, averaging 127 acres each, he has made a success of growing okra, tomato plants, green and red peppers, lima beans, oats, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, turnips and turnip greens, carrots, eggplant, string beans, tomatoes, pecans, rutabagas, collards, strawberries, onions, squash, spinach, radishes, hay, rye, hogs and cows, as well as seeds of various kinds.

All of his products are of first quality and proof of that lies in the fact that he receives fancy prices above ordinary market quotations.

From the by-products of his farms Mr. Crine feeds 300 cows and markets their dairy products at good prices.

Crine Given Credit.

However the Crine Enterprises receive 75 per cent of products canned and shipped from farmers of Grady county. Only one-fourth is grown on the 10 farms and the work bids fair to further and further increase the percentage grown by farmers on contract. Those on contract declare that Mr. Crine is responsible for their prosperous condition and insist thay would like to extend their agreements to cover many more acres than those of 1931. It is nothing unusual for a planter to make $500 to $600 on okra and peppers. Lima beans make another profitable crop, especially in view of the fact that after the bean harvest is over, there is still time for a corn crop.

Mr. Crine has arranged contracts with farmers and knows in advance just how much he will market through his central office. A pre-arranged price for the products is promised the farmers and they know in advance approximately how much they will receive for particular crops per acre.

The Crine products are chiefly vegetable and plant varieties.

Unemployment Absent.

Any mention of unemployment finds a reaction of little complaint in Grady county. Ask about it and hear from substantial people that conditions this year are little if any worse than the so-called boom years of the past. There are people in dire circumstances, but not many.

"Those people who are finding things unpleasant this year," the people say, "are those who found the going tough last year and the several years prior to that time."

There are some charity expense in the county, and that is taken care of in such manner that suffering is unknown, so far as strict poverty goes. Cairo operates a community chest much along the order of those in other cities and the workers have little difficulty raising the needed funds.

They never look backward, those Grady countians, except to review experience which might be useful in solving a problem of the present. On the constant alert for ways and means of expanding their facilities, bankers, businessmen and farmers all agree that growth is the important thing. If enlarged markets could be secured, the farmers would gladly increase contracts to produce greatly increased crops. At least 5,000 acres of okra would be planted next spring if a market could be arranged to care for it, a Cairo banker said.

That point is one of the most important discovered by visitors to Grady county. Mr. Crine and other leading citizens are extremely careful to keep production below the market demand.

"And that is why we never worry about a surplus," Mr. Crine said.

Quality Is Aim.

The Crine Enterprises operate in strict accord with metropolitan business principles and first thought is given to high quality. The following slogan is seen in many units of the Crine organization: "Your Job and My Reputation Depend Upon the Quality of the Product We Send Out." The slogan is made an actuality in the products.

Georgia citizens are aware of the opposition always encountered when marketing products. Mr. Crine found that condition when he began distribution of his products. But surely and quickly he is breaking it down and he attributes his success in that direction to his determination to produce "quality."

"You cannot improve an inferior product by canning," said he, "and every piece of okra, every lima bean pack which goes out of our plants must be perfect."

So excellent were the peppers shipped to an eastern market, the editor of Market Growers' Bulletin wrote an editorial, saying in part:

"A little look at produce like this from Mr. Crine serves to illustrate the possibilities for vegetable-farm aid that we have hardly touched so far."

Mr. Crine is shipping California wonder peppers that bring startling comparisons with those grown on the west coast. They are plump, round and fair and are the equal of any peppers grown in North America, according to produce experts.

Thus does Grady county pursue her way of proving that Georgia products are among the best and that possibilities for growing foodstuffs here are almost limitless. The stream of surplus vegetables can be shipped in their green state or canned and transported to markets of the world, bringing a stream of gold a Midas might envy. Millions of dollars now sent to the east and west may be kept in Georgia and other millions may be brought in through the methods tried, used and adopted by the progressive citizens of Grady county, Georgia.

King Cotton is not dead in Grady county, but he is dethroned and additional drops in his price may bring an exile, for the people have learned that a "congress" of farm products brings happier results than the old monarchic form.

Negro Who Obtained Degree from Oxford Runs Georgia Farm

Dawson, Ga., Dec. 5.—Frank J. Pasco, Jamaican negro, residing in Calhoun, Terrell's neighbor county, has a record of his own in making a success of a truck farm that comprises little more than three acres of ground, according to a remarkable story related in Dawson.

Pasco, it is said, has been a citizen of the United States for twenty-six years and a resident of Calhoun, Terrell's neighbor county, for nine years. He was born in Kingston, Jamacia, British West Indies. He attended common school in Kingston, later studied in Edinburgh, and holds his degree as a bachelor of science from Oxford University, England.

He owns his own home in Arlington—a tidy, well-kept house of six rooms. He is married, has three children and takes care of his wife's mother. His place is neat and clean. He farms but a scant three and a half acres of land ,and on that tract he always has something new to sell. Right now, among the vegetables he is supplying his home and neighboring town trade, are bell peppers, squash, beets, beans and rutabagas. In a carefully kept book he shows his daily operations—costs and results. His books show that he sells some sort of vegetables most every day during the 365. His income from such sales run from 90 cents to $9 a day, and in 1930 totaled $897.32.

Pasco does not believe in social equality.

Agriculture—1931
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Louisiana

Wednesday, January 14, 1931

INCREASED YIELDS VITAL TO AGRICULTURE

Soil Improvement Is Essential to Profitable Farming.

W. B. Mercier, in Fertilizer Review.

No farming can be profitable without productive land upon which to operate, according to W. B. Mercier, director of the Agricultural Extension Service of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Director Mercier emphasizes the fact that soil improvement work is fundamental in all agricultural programs and consequently due to receive a great deal of the extension worker's time.

Results obtained by extension workers of Louisiana show that Director Mercier's emphasis on soil improvement is properly placed. The records show that in one instance 12 bales of cotton were produced on five acres and that in three others 10 bales weer produced and that a number of other farmers produced from 5 to 9 bales each on five acres. A total of 38,976 acres was included in specific demonstrations which produced an average increase over the check plots of 493 pounds of seed cotton per acre. In addition to this, 1,489, 4-H club boys produced an average of 1,037.8 pounds of seed cotton per acre while the average for the state was only 546.

The results obtained by the Negro county agents were also striking. An average acre yield of 992 pounds of seed cotton was produced on a total of 75 demonstration acres. This was an average increase of 598 pounds to the acre over the check plots, and was a direct result of following the recommendations of county agents as to cultural methods, fertilization, seed, poisoning, spacing and other practices. These demonstrators used an average of 400 pounds og 4-8-4 fertilizer per acre, according to Director Mercier. In this group 279 demonstrations on 1,287 acres averaged 435 pounds of seed cotton more than other cotton not grown under instructions of the county agents.

The results obtained with corn were just as striking as those with cotton. During the last few years hundreds of boys have produced an average of 34 bushels of corn per acre as compared with 18.2 bushels per acre as the average for the state. One contestant produced 112 bushels per acre on five acres, while more than 20 farmers produced over 50 bushels per acre. A total of 10,000 acres of demonstration corn produced an average increase of 10.5 bushels per acre over the average of the State. The average yield of the 10 high-scoring 4-H club boys was 112,8, the highest being 120.4 buhsels.

The Negro county agents conducted 240 demonstrations on 1,721 acres with an average increase in yield of 28 1-2 bushels over the check. They also conducted 58 oat demonstnations with a total of 237 acres and produced an average increase of 17 1-2 bushels per acre over the check.

The results with rice were just as significant as those with cotton and corn. Thirty-four rice demonstrations including a total of 5,613 acres, were completed with an average increase of 16.9 bushels per acre over the average for the state.

Some 4,975 acres were included in oat demonstrations which resulted in an average increase of 15 bushels per acre.

Referring to the work with cane, Director Mercier states: "The soil improvement in the cane territory brought about by turning under soybeans has attracted much attention The proper use of commercial fertilizer for cane has produced some interesting results."

A total of 7,680 acres were included in the cane demonstrations which produced an average increase of 9.6 tons peracre over the average yield for the territory.

The increase in yield of Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and other minor crops included in the demonstrations were in line with those of corn and cotton, according to Director Mercier.

These increased yields were the direct result of the farmers following the recommendations of county agents as to the preparation of a good seed bed, thorough cultivation, proper use of commercial fertilizer, use of good seed, poisoning, spacing and other good farming practices, according to Director Mercier.—J. H. S.

THE NEW COTTON PLAN.

Conservation
Atlanta, Ga.

Based as it is on the simple law of supply and demand, the plan to stabilize the price of cotton evolved at the New Orleans conference between representatives of the federal farm board, the American Cotton Co-operatives and southern banking interests, gives promise of greater results than any other yet suggested. 10-14-31

In its final analysis the plan seeks the taking of 7,000,000 bales off the market and a sharp reduction in next year's acreage so that these bales may then be gradually turned loose without upsetting prices.

Under the plan the banks of the south are to make or renew loans sufficient to impound 3,500,000 bales, these loans not to mature earlier than July 1, 1932. Upon the completion of arrangements for these loans the farm board agrees to extend, also to July 1, 1932, the obligations, covering 2,000,000 bales, of the American Cotton Co-operatives.

The plan is to be submitted to the bankers of the south at conventions held in each state on October 20, and their representatives who participated in the New Orleans conference predict that it will meet with quick ratification.

Acreage reduction efforts should be given added impetus by the plan because of the clause under which the farm board agrees to keep its own cotton holdings off the market until July 1, 1933, upon assurance of "substantial reduction" in the 1932 crop.

If plans are consummated at an early date for a sharp reduction in next year's crop, then the taking of 7,000,000 bales off the market at this time should result in the stabilizing of the price of cotton on a scale which would give the grower a fair profit.

If, however, the south should go ahead and raise another bumper crop next year, the impounding of these 7,000,000 bales would simply make matters worse. Sooner or later it would have to be dumped on the market and then prices would drop to record-breaking low levels.

With Texas, Mississippi, South Carolina and Arkansas already having passed reduction legislation, and the acreage in Georgia and other states cut this year through the development of diversified farming, it is fairly certain that next year's crop will be small. Then, under the workings of the law of supply and demand, might be expected a general stiffening of prices which would make it safe and profitable to gradually put the impounded cotton back on the market.

It would appear, therefore, that the plan evolved at New Orleans, if developed in all of its aspects, not only has the merit of temporary relief for the grower, but strong possibility of the full accomplishment of the price stabilization sought.

Agriculture-1931

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Federal Court Halts Unjust Trial

December 2-27-31

Chicago, Illinois

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Feb. 20.—It required less than an hour of evidence in the trial of Rev. S. Grace, charged with impersonating a federal representative, for the case to be thrown out of federal court here last week.

Rev. S. Grace

Rev. Grace, a prominent minister of Greenwood, has been held under $500 bond since Sept. 22 when he was arrested in Heard Chapel A. M. E. church in Greenwood.

The time of his arrest, Rev. was in the midst of a meeting which he was advising farmers to organize and co-operate with each other in order to receive federal loans from the farm bureau created two years ago by the federal government. The deputy sheriff of Leflore county broke into the meeting and took the minister to the county jail at Clarksdale. The arrest was so spectacular that residents in this district were stunned. They immediately sought Rev. Grace's release and were successful getting bond fixed.

The arrest of the minister was looked upon as a plot among white farmers of Leflore county to prevent the farmers from participating in relief which has been made available to farmers through recent legislation in congress. This is one of the best cotton districts in the state there are 5,000 farmers of the race to 1,000 white farmers. The farm law requires all loans to be made through organizations, it was found necessary to get these farmers together if they were to free themselves from the conditions under which they have been forced to live from year to year.

For years these 5,000 dark farmers who have been forced to make loans on their property have had to get them through white merchants and farmers, who charge from 35 to 50 per cent interest. In this manner they keep the Race farmers always in debt, no matter how successful their crops are. The farm loans are made by the government at 5 per cent interest, thus making it possible for a farmer who has a successful crop to clear something at the end of the year.

It was to keep Race farmers from enjoying this condition that resulted in the arrest and trial of Rev. Grace. The case had hardly started here when the presiding judge demanded that it be brought to a close because of insufficient evidence to support the charge against the minister. A directed verdict of not guilty was returned and Rev. Grace was freed.

Farmers throughout the state of Mississippi hail the victory of Rev. Grace as a blow to those who are trying to oppress them. The minister was defended by Attorneys B. A. Green of Mound Bayou (photo on picture page) and J. H. Clark of this city.

The case of Rev. Grace was watched closely by the National Federation of Colored Farmers, the organization that is bending every effort to get the farmers together for their own good. It was due to the interest and energy of this organization that the minister was ably represented.

Reports being circulated in this section reveal a state of affairs among farmers that is astounding to people who are not in touch with the situation. There have been persistent rumors that many white farmers are drawing rations from the Red Cross for their tenants and are charging them for the food and supplies. Wherever this is found to be the case the offenders are punished. There are many cases, according to rumors, that are never reported to the authorities because of fear of punishment. One farmer who had the temerity to protest paying for supplies which were contributed by the Red Cross was ordered to move from the land at once, according to rumors. This has kept other farmers from making any protest, and many of them are signing for rations which should cost them nothing.

DEFRAUDING OF FARMERS SUSPECTED

League

7-17-31

St. Louis, Mo.

Mississippi Negroes Cautioned Against Federation Said To Lack Sufficient Approval. Advises An Investigation

JACKSON, Miss.—July 17—(CNS) Pointing out that the National Federation of Negro Farmers has no recognition from the Federal Farm Board and charging that the colored organization is using its perishable commodities license to trick Mississippi Negro farmers into paying $6 entry fee, Director E. C. McInnis of the Mississippi Agricultural Bureau is boradcasting work to the farmers to investigate the federation before parting with their funds.

In a letter to Thomas J. Williams teacher of agriculture at Summerland, Miss. Mr. McInnis writes in part:

Not Recognized By Us."

This organization —regardless of what you are told—has not received the recognition of the Federal Farm Board, which is evidenced by a letter we have from Mr. Chris L. Christendsen, secretary of the Federal Farm Board—a portion of which we quote: "We are uable to give you very definite information regarding the National Federation of Colored Farmers, James P. Davis, who apparently, is in charge of this organization, had a conference with members of the Federal Farm Board last winter. At that time he was advised by these board members that there was no special need for a national federation of colored farmers because Negro farmers can organize their own local cooperative associations, if necessary, or can join existing co-operative societies on the same terms as white formers. The Farm Board has made no commitments to the National Farmers, and in fact, is doubtful regarding the usefulness and purpose of the organization.

The Federal Farm Board has made it perfectly clear that they would not be sympathetic towards creating or backing any marketing organization that would serve one race or one section of the country to the exclusion of others. Any marketing organization receiving the endorsement and aid of the Federal Farm Board is open to any farmer regardless of color, and every member-patron is accorded the same treatment.

Sees Negro As Prev

Frankly, I see no opportunity for this organization to serve the Negro farmers of Mississippi in any manner, and fear that James P. Davis, is more interested in collecting a $5 membership fee from each Negro farmer than in rendering the equivalent in services. I think it a sad commentary on the Negro leadership that they should prey on the ignorance of their people and take from them money that is sorely needed in the family coffers under the guise and more promise of service they are in no position to render.

I trust that you and other Negro leaders in your community will busy yourselves to the extent that you will get the "low-down" on the activities of this organization and convince your people that they are throwing their money away. We shall be glad to give you any information that will assist you in solving the problems of your race at any time that we may.

Very truly yours,
E. C. McINNIS, Director.

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MISS. PAPER THREATENS NEGROES WHO JOIN FARM ORGANIZATIONS

Thread-Commonwealth
3-7-31

NEW YORK, Feb. 27—A thinly veiled threat of "trouble" to Negro farmers near Greenwood, Mississippi, who joined a recently organized National Federation of Colored Farmers, is published in the Green, Miss., Commonwealth, of Feb 18, and reveals the peonage state of mind which is sought to be created there. Copy of the editorial, which has reaced te National Association for te Advancement of Colored People speaks of the new movement to aid the Negro farmer in cooperative buying an dmarketing as "worthless to the Negro farmer in the Delta' and continues:

"The Delta Negro farmer is a tenant who must buy and sell as his landlord directs, as is the custom in all sections where lands are farmed by share croppers o rsmall renters who must be 'furnished' by the landlord. The average Delta Negro cropper has about as much need of a cooperative buying and marketing organization as he does a swallow tail suit and a stove pipe hat. The The average Delta Negro farmer is not capable of handling any business of any kind, nor is he capable of understanding the instructions of the organization when printed and mailed to him.

Baltimore, Md.

"It has been the history of Negro organizations, dealing as they must do, with a mass of uneducated, childlike Negroes, that whatever the purposes o fthe organization may be, sooner or later the ignorant members feel that the organization is formed to afford them rotection from the consequences of their ow wrong-doing and leads to serious trouble in which the Negro is invariably the worst sufferer."

Cotton Bill Passes Mississippi House

Advertiser
10-8-31

JACKSON, MISS., Oct. 7—(AP)—Mississippi went on record today for cotton acreage curtailment in 1932 and 1933 as the House of Representatives passed the Senate-approved Roberts-Sillers reduction bill and then clinched its position by defeating the Kennedy cotton holiday measure.

Motion Pictures

The Roberts-Sillers bill with house amendments, was approved by the overwhelming vote of 101 to 33, while the no-cotton bill was turned down, 74 to 61. Consideration of the no-cotton measure after passage of the Senate bill was by agreement of the House to consider both plans.

The Roberts-Sillers bill now returns to the Senate for concurrence in House amendments.

Under the bill, cotton acreage is to be limited in 1932 and 1933 to 30 per cent of all lands under cultivation at present. For the benefit of delta farmers there is an amendment providing for a 50 per cent reduction of the total cotton acreage of 1930.

Mississippi.

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COMMONWEALTH
GREENWOOD, MISS.

FEB 18 1931

A USELESS ORGANIZATION

In recent months an organization styling itself the National Federation of Colored Farmers has been organizing local chapters, or units, as they are called in the Greenwood territory. Several of these units are operating in this section.

Membership in the organization it is understood costs $5.00 per year, and as yet none of the members of the organization have realized anything from the membership except the privilege of paying the dues.

The organization, fostered by Chicago people, sets forth as its purpose the general aiding of the negro farmer in co-operative buying and marketing, and lately it is soliciting funds for capital stock for the formation of an agricultural credit corporation.

The organization is worthless to the negro farmer in the Delta. The Delta negro farmer is a tenant who must buy and sell as his landlord directs, as is the custom in all sections where lands are farmed by share croppers or small renters who must be 'furnished' by the landlord. The average Delta negro cropper has about as much need of a co-operative buying and marketing organization as he does a swallow tail suit and a stove pipe hat. The average Delta negro farmer is not capable of handling any business of any-kind, nor is he capable of understanding the instructions of the organization when printed and mailed to him.

It has been the history of nergo organizations, dealing as they must do, with a mass of uneducated, child-like negroes, that whatever the purposes of the organization may be, sooner or later the ignorant members feel that the organization is formed to afford them protection from the consequences of their own wrongdoing and leads to serious trouble in which the negro is invariably the worst sufferer.

The negro farmer who is in a position to be benefitted by any organization like the National Association of Colored Farmers finds that he never needs such an organization. The responsible, land owning, hard working negro farmer, in matters of receiving credit and selling his produce, finds no discrimination against himself because of color.

Intelligent negroes in this section recognize the truth of these statements and generally frown upon such organizations as pernicious in their results.

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Only Hope For Farmers

THE farmer is now laying his plans for the year's crop and there is no better time for him to determine, as far as he is able to do so, what price he is to receive than at this time. Unless the farmer, banker and time-merchant can get together on the amount of acreage to be planted for the year's market, another disastrous year is certainly in prospect. There is a tendency on the part of the farmers to disregard the law of supply and demand and recklessly make a crop far in excess of the demand. There has always been too much individualism and too little cooperation. Journals and Tribune

These are some of the factors in the equation which cannot be successfully ignored. First, that there is already a 9,000,000 bale carry-over from the last year's cotton crop. This means that this much cotton is already on the market before a seed is planted for 1931. Second, practically the same thing is true of the tobacco crop. The tobacco farmers raised 535,000,000 pounds of tobacco last year and averaged 13.7 cents per pound, whereas in the previous year farmers sold 502,600,000 pounds of tobacco and averaged 18.2 cents per pound. The situation of the peanut growers and the potato growers is just about the same. These are not theories, but facts open to the farmers to read and they cannot ignore them without paying the penalty. 2-21-31

The time has come when farmers must cooperate or face chaos. They must reduce their acreage, but it will take cooperation to do it. The Chairman of the Federal Farm Board said in an address in Raleigh on Thursday, February 12th that a 14,000,000 bale cotton crop, the same as raised last year, would sell for $272,000,000 less than a 10,000,000 bale crop. This means that if our farmers go headlong and produce the same crop as last year they will produce it at their own expenses. Along with this reduction in his market crop, which includes tobacco, peanuts and potatoes must go the production of more foodstuff and feed for the cattle. There has always been too little of this in the South.

The second thing the farmer must do is cooperate in marketing his crops. This is what a lack of cooperation meant to the tobacco farmers last year. Three of our largest cigarette companies increased their earnings for 1930 by sixteen million dollars, while the tobacco farmers were paid eighteen million dollars less for their tobacco. What explanation is there for this except that the poor farmer is unorganized and is therefore helpless. The farmer is absolutely at the mercy of the buyers and must take what he can get. Non-Pooler

The farmers have been in the main individualists. There was a time when he could get cheap labor and produce to the limit at a profit, because he could not produce but so much. But with modern machinery and modern methods he can now produce almost twice as much with half the labor. Aside from this there was a decided lack of business ability with the result that the waste was enormous. The time has come now, however, when agriculture must be placed on a sound business basis, both as to production as well as marketing or our farmers as going to suffer the consequences directly and the whole country indirectly.

Durham, N. C. Sun
Wednesday, February 25, 1931

NEGRO FARMER LIVES AT HOME

John Jones of Durham Count Finds it Pays to Make Living On His Own Farm

John Jones, of the Mangur township section of Durham county, an outstanding Negro farmer his county, is following the policies of the "Live-at-Home" program, according to T. A. Hamme, Negro farm agent. He, like hundreds of other Negroes, is carrying out the advice given him by extension specialists and is benefiting thereby.

He has a farm of 163 acres, with much timber land and pastures. The soil, a red sandy loam, is very fertile. His equipment is modern in most respects. He has been living on his place, which he owns, for the past 11 years and has not bought any meat, corn or hay in over 20 years. He always produces a surplus of garden produce, puts up fruit and vegetables in cans for winter use and slaughters from 1,100 to 1,400 pounds of meat annually. He keeps an extra milk cow and has a fine flock of chickens.

Last year Jones produced 482 bushels of wheat on 32 acres, obtaining $626.60 for the seed grain after cleaning. The yield on 30 acres of corn was 1,175 bushels, which brought him a return of $1,057.50. His 19-acre field of tobacco produced 12,240 pounds which sold for $2,498.95. His hay crop consisted of: 4 acres of soybean hay, 5 tons, value $125; 8 acres of clover hay, 4 tons, value $60; 2 acres in alfalfa hay, 5½ tons, value $154.

Jones has a modern home, electric lights, a radio, an automobile and lives well. He is respected by members of his own race and of the write race as well. He has been "Living-at-Home" for years and has found it a good program, and has found year in and year out.

North Carolina

GASTONIA, N. C.
GAZETTE

APR 29 1931

NEGRO FARMERS SUPPORT LIVE-AT-HOME WORK.

Negro farmers in all parts of North Carolina are planning to support the live-at-home campaign this year and will farm to make a living first.

"While we have no accurate records of what the negro farmers are doing except in the 18 counties where we have local agents employed, we do find a commendable attitude on the part of our colored citizens in these counties," says C. R. Hudson, farm demonstration worker at State College. "There have been 26,771 persons at the 322 meetings held to explain the live-at-home movement. At each of these meetings information was given out as to the possible influence of any large acreage to cotton and tobacco on prices this year. It was also shown that crops needed for home supplies can be grown at home much cheaper than they can be purchased."

Especially have the colored farmers been asked to grow an adequate supply of corn, hay, poultry and pork and to have a good garden. Emphasis has been placed on the garden and the results are excellent. In several counties, a survey shows that about every colored farm family has started a garden. In some others, pastures have been planted and arrangements made to secure milk cows.

Mr. Hudson says in Alamance county, the negro farmers have eggs, poultry and cream to sell after saving a good supply for home use. In Gates county, more corn, pigs and poultry will be raised than ever before. In Harnett county, 20 negro farmers have entered a home garden contest and 14, a corn contest. In Rowan and Iredell counties, a tremendous acreage has been planted to lespedeza and in Robeson county, 32 demonstrations in improved corn have been planted.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
Tuesday, May 5, 1931

Solving the Negro Farm Problem.

To the Editor of The Observer:

I was very much interested in The Forum contribution "The Negro Problem," by W. P. Evans of Laurinburg. The principle set out in his argument is fine. Not only so, but something on that order, is positively the only hope for the south.

There has been practiced in this section of the country, since the Civil war, a policy of land grabbing by that element of society who thought to recoup their losses in the emancipation of the negro, by conducting a system of business that would put them in complete ownership and control of the lands of the south, and thus place both the poor whites and also the negroes in a state of industrial slavery which would be more profitable to themselves than had been the chattle slavery just abolished.

This program has been in course of development, and has served its day, up to this present time, but is now beginning to show its ugly side.

While the policy has been very nearly carried to fruition, the fruit is not pleasant, it's beginning to have a crab-apple taste, and is not only not profitable at this stage, it is actually ruinous, and without a remedy for its devastating effects; not only the country in general is ruined, but those individuals whom it appeared would benefit by the process are ruined also.

High taxes, and extravagant government has found this system of agriculture has exhausted the lands, and that they are now unable to support this program of progress we have put on, and at the same time support the labor necessary to cultivate them. The result is, every man who has more land than he can use himself and has to depend on tenants to handle it for him, while he finances the operation, is losing money in nine cases out of ten.

The MacLean bill for school support, was intended to relieve this class of losing landlords, by reducing the tax on lands, and putting it on over-alls and fat-back, so the tenant would have to pay it when he bought his little supplies. It seems, however, this attempt is not going to succeed. Thanks to the friends of humanity.

The Evans suggestion of re-instating the people on the lands—under terms whereby they may hope to become owners of small farms well tilled and cared for, is the real and only remedy for our present trouble. The farmer has collapsed, fallen under the weight that has been heaped upon him. If he could not remain upright, while he was up, he certainly cannot rise with all the weight that threw him still on. Maybe it will require an old-fashioned "Jubilee" to set us straight.

I believe a great many large land owners would welcome such. The only objectionable trend in the Evans letter seems to be his assumption that the negro tenant is the only one to be looked after in this matter.

I wish to enter a protest here, the white owner of a small farm having had it confiscated by unjust and unreasonable taxation, should have some "restitution" also. Lets not take the white man's home and give it to cuffy, especially if it was the only little home he had.

Waxhaw, April 30. S. S. DUNLOP.

An Imaginative Negro Farmer Makes $65,000

10-30-31

WHITEVILLE, N. C. — While many of the single crop farmers of the South are experimenting difficultly because of the sick condition in which their principal crop, cotton, finds itself, one Negro farmer, William C. Spaulding, is making agricultural history and

feeling none of the ill effects of the present depression. Known in this section as the "Round Bean King," Mr. Spaulding realized over $65,000 in the sale of farm produce from his farm last year.

Began on Small Scale

He began business four years ago in a small way selling his vegetables to the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, concentrating on the Southern division with headquarters at Charlotte. Today he is accredited representative of the company. He is the proud possessor of five trucks, and has under cultivation over 65 acres of snap beans. He is known to have the largest market for fancy vegetables in this district. Over 15 acres of turnips plus additional fields of savoy cabbages. At the present time he is experimenting with Italian sprouting broccoli, a comparatively new field.

MILLS OF SOUTH STORING COTTON

Telegraph

Bibb Manufacturing Company to Be Large Buyer

11-2-31

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Nov. 1 (AP) David Clark, editor of the Southern Textile Bulletin, said here today that southern cotton mills are buying and storing large quantities of raw cotton in anticipation of sharp price advances within the next year or two.

Macon Ga.

Clark said he was informed that the Cannon mills of Kannapolis, N. C., world's largest towel manufacturers, are acquiring a five-year supply, but that he had made no effort to confirm this report.

Clark said other large buyers of cotton are the Bibb Manufacturing company, which operates several plants in Georgia, and the chain of Georgia mills of which Cason J. Calloway, of LaGrange, president of the American Cotton Manufacturers' association, is the executive head.

WHITE AND NEGRO TENANCY

In North Carolina a substantial majority of all tenant farmers are not Negroes, as popularly supposed, but white persons. Moreover, as pointed out by Prof. S. H. Hobbs, Jr., in the University News Letter, the census for 1930 shows that whereas during the past decade Negro tenancy in this State has been declining, white tenancy has been on the increase.

There are, of course, very few Negro farmers in Western North Carolina counties and the percentage of tenancy among white farmers in these counties is relatively small, running in most mountain counties under 25 per cent as against 50 to 70 per cent in the eastern part of the State.

"There is almost a perfect correlation," says Professor Hobbs, "between cash crops—cotton and tobacco—and farm tenancy. These two

NEW BERN, N. C.
NEW BERNIAN

NOV 2 4 1931

FARM TENANCY IN CRAVEN

Craven county has a total of 1,387 white farm operators and 715 negro farm operators, while 60 per cent of the white farmers are tenants and 47.3 per cent of the negro farmers are tenants. In the state the white farmers who are tenants range from 7.7 per cent in Dare county to 73.3 per cent in Greene. Dare county has no negro tenants, while in Edgecombe county 94.2 per cent of all the negro farmers are tenants. White persons who are full tenants number 39.7 per cent of the white farmers, while negro farmers who are full tenants total 73.6 per cent of the total of negro farmers.

When one thinks of farm tenancy in North Carolina he usually thinks of it as a negro problem and discusses it as a natural condition, says the University of North Carolina News Letter. Yet the fact is that 59 per cent of all farm tenants in North Carolina are white farmers. Ten years ago only 54 per cent of all tenants in the state were white farmers. Thus during the last ten years the farm tenant problem has become more largely a white problem. And this is merely a continuation of the trend for several decades, and especially the last five years.

The News Letter shows that while the negro population of North Carolina increased slightly above 20 per cent in the past ten years, while farms operated by negroes increased less than 1 per cent, and there has been an actual decrease in farms operated by negro tenants the past fiive years. Farms operated by white farmer-owners have decreased nearly 16,000 in the past five years, while farms operated by negro farmer owners have decreased just a fraction over 2,000.

crops are almost ideally suited to tenant farming. It is in the cotton-tobacco belt that tenancy is established as a system of land tenure, and it is here that tenancy rates are increasing at an alarming pace. Both races are caught in the system, with the whites apparently losing ground more rapidly than Negroes."—Asheville Citizen.

Agriculture-1931

North Carolina

Condition of

New Bern, N. C. Sun Journal
Wednesday, January 21, 1931

The Colored Farmer

A plea that the colored tenant farmer stop moving, and that he settle down seriously to the business of making a living on the farm, is voiced by C. M. Eppes, of Greenville, advisory unemployment commissioner of eastern Carolina. "Our tenant farmers," he says, "should earnestly and courteously approach the landowner for permission to raise not less than two hogs and all other foodstuffs in connection with the cash crops, cotton and tobacco."

"The salvation of eastern North Carolina is farming to live at home," the letter continues. "Taxes can be paid easily by permitting tenants to have a free hand. If tenants are found to object, they should not be permitted to farm by any landowner. Negro landowners should heed the call to preserve the race's record in the agricultural field, and thus be invited to a place in the industrial field. If we fail in 1931 to raise our own foodstuffs we are doomed and damned as a mass. Our day of settlement is here. Money can't be borrowed; the landowner is swamped. Therefore there must be mutual cooperation to get good times."

The advice is exceedingly good, and it ought to serve to check such a movement on the part of tenant farmers to town as was reported from an eastern Carolina city the other day. "There is no need to jump from the frying pan into the fire," the letter tells those who are considering moving to town. It points out the recent mass movement to Florida with disastrous results. New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore are overcrowded, it says, and no one will endorse or back the efforts of a tenant who is continually moving.

Agriculture-1931

South Carolina

Condition of

Cotton Or No Cotton, He Farms With Profit

Courier 10-24-31 Pittsburgh Pa.

UNION, S. C., Oct. 22.—(CNS)—Twenty-nine years n a 129 acre farm, with never a loss and never a hard year. is the record of Harry Tinsley, who lives near here. He owns his own place and has reared seven children, all girls.

"I've farmed when prices were high and when prices were low," said Mr. Tinsley, "and have managed to get along under either condition. I've never paid much attention to prices in planning my operations. What I think of first is living. 'Can I eat it or food it?' I ask myself about most things I grow. I planted no more cotton when the price of it was 30 or 40 cents a pound than I always did. I plant about the same as I planted before the war."

This year Mr. Tinsley will get about 20 bales off his 12[illegible] acre farm, and if it didn't bring anything he would get along all right next year. For every few days, he puts a load of stuff in his car, drives to one of the nearby towns and exchanges produce for cash. Sometimes it's poultry products, sometimes vegetables, but most often fruit. He is one of the best fruit growers in this section. From a three acre orchard, most of it in peach trees, he harvests salable fruit regularly from late May to mid-October.

"There are three products I make it a rule never to sell," says he. "These are butter, roasting ears and hams. If I sell butter and hams there is danger of my not having enough for myself and if I go pulling green corn I might not be left with enough for my stock. I always play safe as to food and feed and never buy any of either, except things like sugar and coffee which I can't produce. The only times when I buy flour is when I'm too lazy to take wheat to the mill and have it ground." Tinsley keeps up with the literature of farming and consults frequently with the county agent. He bought his place in 1901, paying a small part of the $1,000 purchase price in cash. The balance was paid off out of earnings by the end of 1904. He has made many improvements in the place, for which he was once offered $8,000. He declares that only once since he began farming on his own has he incurred a debt for expenses in making a crop.

"I bought this place with 6 to 7 cents cotton and present conditions don't scare me a bit," he declares.

ly refused an offer of $8,000 for the farm. The bankers' man thought this was a farmer worth interviewing.

He found Henry Tinsley confidently and smilingly going about his work on the plantation. He had no worries, it seemed; he was not demanding action from the legislature or from congress. He didn't even broach the subject of the price of cotton. Here's why:

"I've farmed when prices were high and when prices were low," he told the bankers' representative, "and have managed to get along under either condition. I've never paid much attention to prices in planning my operations. What I think of first is living. 'Can I eat it or feed it?' I ask myself about most things I grow. I planted no more cotton when the price of it was 30 to 40 cents a pound than I always did ,and plant about the same now that I planted before the war."

Some of the things he raises, he won't sell. Butter, eggs, corn on the cob, ham, and other things he keeps for his own family and farm. He always plants nearly everything that the family table needs, with the exception of such commodities as coffee and sugar, which he can't produce. "The only time I buy flour is when I'm too lazy to take wheat to the mill and have it ground," he said.

Henry Tinsley reads everything he sees to read about farming—that is, anything written by experts who know—and he very often calls on the county demonstration agent to ask advice. "Present conditions don't scare me a bit," he says.

Go back and read again that quotation, "What I think of first is living."

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS

SEP 23 1931

The Negro Farmer

A few days ago The News and Courier said that the Southern white people were "in part" relieved of responsibility for the colored people upon their emancipation in 1865.

Since 1876 the negroes in South Carolina have had negligible representation in government, since 1895, none. Through the operation of the Democratic party as an exclusive white man's organization and by constitutional enactments the negroes have been eliminated from government.

It necessarily follows that white men in political power, especially in the general assembly, are bound in conscience and common decency to guard as best they can the lives and the property of the negro people. In the state are 793,000 of them, men, women and children. They are here with us, among us.

However widely white men may and do differ from the opinion of negro leaders in respect of the treatment of the negroes as a race, no white inheritor of the instincts of respectable Southerners of 1860 forgets his obligation to strive for justice for them.

The general assembly cannot honorably consider the cotton question solely from the point of view of the white man's interest.

Augusta Chronicle
Sunday, October 11, 1931

A Lesson Taught by a Good Farmer

Henry Tinsley, a Negro farmer over in Union county, South Carolina, has taught a lesson to every farmer who now finds difficulty in paying his bills, or who wonders how he is going to finance his next crop. The South Carolina Bankers association has in its employ a man whose business it is to interview successful farmers and find out how and why they are what they are. Union county, he heard, was the home of a Negro farmer who bought a place in 1901, for $1,000, paying only a small part of the purchase price when he took possession. The balance was paid off in three years with the proceeds of six to seven-cent cotton, and the farmer has recently refused an offer of $8,000 for the farm. The bankers' man thought this was a farmer worth interviewing.

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COLUMBIA, S. C.
STATE

DEC 3 1931

Corn Growing on St. Helena.

One has heard it disparagingly said of Negro freeholders on St. Helena Island, in Beaufort county, that they have not maintained the crop yields that the lands they farm produced under the plantation system.

If it be true, as likely enough it is that freedmen, cultivating small holdings, and lacking such supervision and conservation of materials and forces as the plantation economy provided, have not as yet achieved the efficiency in production characteristic of the island under the slave dispensation, that is hardly more than was to be expected.

Even that standing reproach, however, unjust though it is, bids fair to be lifted, and this mainly through vocational instruction of the boys and girls.

At the Junior Farmers' fair for this year, held as usual at Penn school, Frogmore, the average per-acre corn yield reported by 53 contestants was 38.1 bushels, as compared with an average of 25 bushels reported last year by 43 contestants. Moreover, 42 of the young competitors this year made over 30 bushels per acre each, whereas but 12 attained that yield last season.

South Carolina

Agriculture - 1931
6 Condition of.

Aiken, S. C. Standard
Friday, January 9, 1931

Baronial Homes Returning to Coastal South Carolina

By Chlotilde R. Martin

THERE is a saying that history repeats itself and in the coastal section of South Carolina, at least, it seems to be doing just that.

Long years ago, this section was full of great houses that stood here and there near the tidal waters that curl in and out among the sea islands. In the shadow of the "big house" were many, many small cabins occupied by Negro slaves and the plantation houses was surrounded by hundreds of acres of land.

Each plantation had its overseer and its "cap'n," upon whom was the sole responsibility for the welfare of those who served him in one capacity or another.

Then hard times fell upon the country. The Negroes who had lived in the little cabins had become freedmen and had gone away to fend for themselves. The "cap'n" had left the plantation and the "big house" had grown shabbier and shabbier, if it had been so fortunate as to have escaped the flames of war. And thousands upon thousands of acres of land lay in waste and idleness along the coast.

People sighed and shook their heads. "All things have their day and cease to be," they had to admit. It was merely change. They would have to adjust themselves to it. And they did.

Now the coastal section is undergoing another change. It is the cycling of time again with a familiar, though modified face, turned this way for a second time.

Once more, "big houses" are springing up along the coast, settling themselves down beside the little tidal streams that wind in and out and, in nearly every instance, exactly upon the site of the "big houses" of long ago.

Instead of the old "cap'n," now the "big boss." The superintendent has taken the place of the overseer. There are still the little cabins, though not so many idle acres.

There is a new people among us. Men and women who have worked hard and made money in a more prosperous section have come to Coastal South Carolina to play. In each plantation there is a thousand and sometimes as many as five and ten and twenty thousand acres of land. They buy them for immense playgrounds, for the fun of hunting deer and quail and of fishing in the little gray creeks.

Although more or less a strange people, some of them are associated through birth or marriage with this section, and all of them are finely sensitive and appreciative of the South and of the old homes over which they have gained possession.

They repair and protect the old plantation grave yards, preserve ancient trees and the remnants of culture of a day gone by. Where there remain the whole or parts of the former houses, these are remodeled and renovated instead of new ones built. In numerous cases where the original house has fallen into decay, moulding, mantels, stairs and other pieces are torn away and utilized in the new structures.

Very often Southern Colonial type of architecture is followed, although there is a great deal of the New England Colonial to be seen. In both the building and the furnishing an effort is made to retain as much of the old as is reconciliable with the new.

This is a new day and a new people. Old prejudices die with each generation. Debts that are charged by one generation to another are not always paid. And any fire, however violent, unreplenished, eventually burns itself out.

More than thirty years ago the first interest in Coastal South Carolina began to be shown by wealthy Northern men. One of the first was the late Senator J. M. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, who bought an old estate at the end of St. Helena Island.

H. B. Hollins, Sr., a New Yorker banker, was among the first in the developments which later resulted in the organization of Okeetee, Good Hope and Chelsea clubs down in Jasper County.

About ten years later, came Du-Point on the Combahee, McCurdy to Tomotley, R. T. Wilson to Palmetto Bluff at Bluffton.

Next came Arthur Lyman, of Boston and James Kidder, of New York, lured by the tales of romance of "pintap Cumbee," and Roy Rainey, of New York, bought on Hilton Head.

Then clubs of rich Northerners began to grow up thick and fast along the coast and hunting in Coastal South Carolina was greatly enjoyed in the mellow year-around climate. Individuals began to come later and set up handsome homes for occupancy several months of the year.

About six or eight years ago, a great deal of interest began to be taken in game protection and this is growing more and more.

Hon. Niels Christensen of Beaufort, a number of years ago foresaw the possibilites for this section because of its ideal climate and its large estates of idle land stocked with game of all kinds. He bestirred himself to see what he could do towards interesting Northern men to come, buy game preserves and take up winter residences. Through the influence of J. K. Hollins and others, the Edisto-Savannah rivers section is fast becoming populated with wealthy landowners, who, by the purchase of single tracts or gradual smaller purchases, are slowly but surely coming into possession of much of the land of this section.

It is estimated that already one-third of the total land of Beaufort county is thus owned.

At first, several of the rich owners were said to have discouraged the Negroes, but later learned that where they were allowed to occupy small cabins and plant little patches, the game was more numerous. Negroes have also been found valuable in preventing forest fires on the larger timber holdings.

Mr. R. H. McCurdy of Tomotley, is said to be especially kind to the Negroes around him, as was also the late G. L. Redmond, of Clay Hall and Nieuport plantations on the Combahee River.

One old Negro woman, in speaking of Mr. Redmond, said: "When he lived, it was just like slavery again." And the glow on her face was testimony that, so far as she was concerned, at least, slavery was a good thing. "Colored people didn't have to worry 'bout nothin' den," she elaborated further.

So, this is but change again. Life has a way of breaking those who attempt to stem its tide. The wise and those who would save their own necks, learn, philosophically, to travel along with it gracefully.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
Wednesday, February 18, 1931

NEGRO FARMERS IN NEED

Thousand on St. Helena Island Said in Distress

Beaufort, Feb. 17.—Special: The small negro farmers of St. Helena island, of whom there are estimated to be about one thousand, are reported to be in real distress. The curtailment of the operation of the oyster factory, which has formerly furnished many with a means of earning money, and the fact that the shrimp factory is not now in operation, added to the general depression, has had a vital effect upon these farmers.

In an effort to formulate some plan of relief, T. H. Seabrook, Beaufort county farm agent, is calling a meeting of these farmers for Friday of this week at the Penn school and will present to them a program of sweet potato growing as a means of providing a cash income.

These farmers plant an average of ten acres each and Mr. Seabrook will advocate that they give one or two acres of this amount to the cultivation of sweet potatoes, which, he says, he can easily market for them. There will be little expense to the planting of the potatoes, Mr. Seabrook says, and if the negro farmers cooperate, he can sell for them between four and five carloads of sweet potatoes. This program will, of course, be put across in connection with hog and poultry raising for the market and would double their present cash income.

B. B. Barnwell, negro farm agent, stationed on St. Helena island to assist these farmers in their problems. He has been in this county for about seventeen years.

Beaufort, S. C., Gazette
Thursday, April 30, 1931

BEAUFORT LOSES THOUSAND FARMS.

There is no great cause for alarm as a result of the above statement, the caption of this item. Take present conditions into consideration one might be delighted with such news, though we never are pleased to think that we are going backward. To a degree it is a backward step, but on close study we feel it to be a forward one for the best interset of the county. Government records and statistics furnish valuable information. The recent census report advises that Beaufort county has a thousand less farms now than in 1920. It goes further and gives much interesting data regarding the farming and livestock situation of the county.

Without having the advantage of studing the detail information gathered by the census seekers we hazzard a guess on what we say. We fee that the great decrease in farms is due to the negro migration north. Of course a good number of white people have surrendered their farms to the government banks or other creditors or sold them to northern folk for game preserves at good prices. This group is small as compared with the decrease in the number of negro farmers. Prior to 1920 cotton held sway on the islands of the coast. This is an agricultural produce that can be planted to advantage by the negro Since 1920 conditions have so changed that our people have been forced to abandon the cotton crop almost entirely. Government statistics seldom ever give data regarding the cotton product planted in this county. We are no longer considered cotton people. We are truck produers. There is a greater gamble in the trucking game. It is such that the small negro planter can not try it to advantage. Thus the old negro cotton planter is working on the truck farms, in the oyster plants, or he has gone North. His small farm is abandoned, his old shanty fast decaying, weeds and bushes taking the place.

We feel that the great decrease in

farms is a distinct advantage to the county. With less planters there is less produced, thereby (if all maximums were true—the old doctrine of supply and demand, etc.) there should be better prices. This year we find that such isn't the case. Cotton is back at a new low level, and the outlook isn't so bright for an increase in the price. Truck products, thus far are not commanding the desired prices. Necessity has turned many small planters to other gainful pursuits, all to the best interest of the county.

The small tenant farmer, mostly the negro, has decreased fifty per cent according to the government figures. This means that more lands are idle. The subsequent result has been a decrease of $1,609,562 in the value of county land values during the decade just ending. Thus one cause for increase taxation, though a small one. We trust that the decrease in the number of tenant farmers means that more and more of the planters own their farms. If this be the result it is a good sign of the times. We are hopeful.

The records do not disclose any increase in the livestock industry of the county of which we might boost. There are a few cows, but a big decrease of cattle generally. We regret to learn that such is the case. We belong to the small group who have urged an increase of cattle. We feel that more sure money is to be had by the planters if such a course is followed. We are glad to know that county agent Seabrook, is brining about an increase of cattle production in the county. His efforts during recent months have done more to point out the advantages to be gained from the handling of cattle than all of our arguments of recent years.

Though there be a decrease in farm lands, a tremendous drop in land values, and no increase of cattle (according to the records) we are not despondent thereby. In fact we are a bit jubilant because we feel that present day conditions warrant such a decrease in the number of farms and land values, though they should bring about an increase of cattle.

FEWER NEGROES IN AGRICULTURE

The Negro minority in the population of South Carolina for the first time in 100 years, and the tendency of the Negro to continue to drift from the state impose economic and social changes of more than passing significance.

In the field of agriculture the changes are far-reaching. From the standpoint of numbers alone, the Negro has long dominated the agriculture of the state. He has constituted by far the greatest number of croppers and tenants. He has provided the hand labor for the vast crops of cotton and tobacco. He has supplied the basis of plantation farming. In short in many areas, it was upon his labor that agriculture was able to prosper.

What has happened in those sections where the Negro has left in large numbers during the past decade is obvious to those who are acquainted with the facts. Farm lands have been abandoned, and farm wealth and income have declined with telling effect upon social economic life. Some whites, dependent upon Negro labor to work their lands, have been left economically stranded.

The further drift of the Negro from the state will certainly mean that South Carolina will be compelled to use more white labor on farms. It will be either that or the utilization of more labor saving farm machinery.

In either case the outlook for agriculture is hopeful. If somehow the white farmers can finally be convinced that success in agriculture depends upon their own labor and their own intelligence, it seems obvious that the state will be on the road toward agricultural rehabilitation. This and the use of farm machinery to reduce excessive labor costs ought to bring to farming something of stable prosperity.

From the standpoint of the economic and social life of the state as a whole, the appreciable reduction of Negro croppers and tenants means a decided gain. Considering South Carolina agriculture from any angle you please, you can't escape the conclusion that excessive Negro tenancy accounts in a large measure for soil exhaustion, one crop farming, low income per farm worker, and general low standards of living.

Colored Farmers To Make Tour

A farmers' tour will be conducted on July 17 by the colored farmers of Bamberg county. We will visit the following communities: Orange Grove, Colston, Carver, and Ehrhardt. We will be glad to have as many farmers as possible go along and see the improvement that has been made in these communities this year.

Geo. W. Daniels, county agent of Orangeburg county; Prof. S. M. Pinkney, farm manager of State college, and other extension agents will be with us on that day.

The morning tour will begin at I. S. Nimmons's at 8:30 a. m., and end at Carver school at 12:00, for lunch. There a discussion by farmers and extension agents will be held. At 2:15 the afternoon tour will begin at C. R. McMillan's and end at W. H. Kearse's at Ehrhardt.

Let us put forth every effort to make this tour a success, and be sure to attend and bring your friends.

J. D. MARSHALL,

RECORD
COLUMBIA, S. C.

JUN 29 1931

FEWER NEGROES IN AGRICULTURE

The Negro minority in the population of South Carolina for the first time in 100 years, and the tendency of the Negro to continue to drift from the state impose economic and social changes of more than passing significance.

In the field of agriculture the changes are far-reaching. From the standpoint of numbers alone, the Negro has long dominated the agriculture of the state. He has constituted by far the greatest number of croppers and tenants. He has provided the hand labor for the vast crops of cotton and tobacco. He has supplied the basis of plantation farming. In short in many areas, it was upon his labor that agriculture was able to prosper.

What has happened in those sections where the Negro has left in large numbers during the past decade is obvious to those who are acquainted with the facts. Farm lands have been abandoned, and farm wealth and income have declined with telling effect upon social economic life. Some whites, dependent upon Negro labor to work their lands, have been left economically stranded.

The further drift of the Negro from the state will certainly mean that South Carolina will be compelled to use more white labor on farms. It will be either that or the utilization of more labor saving farm machinery.

In either case the outlook for agriculture is hopeful. If somehow the white farmers can finally be convinced that success in agriculture depends upon their own labor and their own intelligence, it seems obvious that the state will be on the road toward agricultural rehabilitation. This and the use of farm machinery to reduce excessive labor costs ought to bring to farming something of stable prosperity.

From the standpoint of the economic and social life of the state as a whole, the appreciable reduction of Negro croppers and tenants means a decided gain. Considering South Carolina agriculture from any angle you please, you can't escape the conclusion that excessive Negro tenancy accounts in a large measure for soil exhaustion, one crop farming, low income per farm worker, and general low standards of living.

Texas

Agriculture-1931
Condition of

CLEBURNE, TEX.
MORNING REVIEW

JAN 28 1932

TEXAS AND THE NEGRO FARMER

"We probably have about 100,000 negro farmers in Texas today, representing a population of nealy 500,000," editorializes The Texas Weekly. "As tenant sand farm owners they are utilizing about $250,000,000 of invested capital. They constitute therefore an important factor in agriculture." Then the editor of Texas Weekly reminds his readers, "the aphorism to the effect that the only way to make a negro work is to keep him in debt, at one time almost universally accepted in the agricultural South, is coming to be doubted, at least as a rule having universal application."

Labor is said to be noble and holy. Work, intelligent work, not drudgery, never injured the health or thep ocket of white, yellow, brown or black. It is the industrious and the thrifty who avoid falling in the ditch. It is the tireless worker, who thinks while he is working, who keeps out of the ditch.

HARD TIMES AND THE NEGRO

Recently there appeared in our local daily press an article which described in detail how a white man in the little town of Tomball was earning a living for himself and family on a ten-acre tract of land, six acres of which are cultivated, with the rest in pasture. A brief quotation will indicate to some extent the procedure which is followed in this very interesting case.

"Mr. Bogs' home is a small, painted structure surrounded by sycamore and china trees. Flowers and shrubbery grow in the yard.

Informer 7-4-31

"He operates his farm without expensive equipment and with a small outlay of cash. He takes advantage of all his opportunities. He knows all the tricks about cultivating in wet and dry weather, how to combat insects, and how to get the biggest yield from the smallest area of land.

Houston, Texas.

"In addition to his vegetables, he produces his own dairy, meat and poultry products. He sells the surplus."

Here is a man who has solved his primary problem of physical existence. He has recognized that his first duty to himself and his family is to provide food, raiment and shelter. There is little doubt that, under his philosophy of taking "advantage of all his opportunities," he will go a great distance toward solving his other problems which stand in the way of more abundant life for him and his.

Being black and being the last to be hired and the first to be fired, it is true that we have a hard time as Negroes. In times of depression like the one through which we are now passing there is doubtless justification for tales of woe which we send up as little groups of us get together to talk over our unfortunate situation. But there are a whole lot more of us than might appear on the surface who can do what this white man is doing at Tomball. There are a great many of us who can get hold of ten acres of land if we really wanted to. And we could cultivate six of these acres, too, if we really wanted to. What stands in the way?

A number of things. It starts with our schools. The whole process in most of them is away from the primary necessities and problems of life. As was pointed out to the Fisk students recently by Carter Woodson, "The Negro boy sent to college by a mechanic seldom dreams of learning mechanical engineering to build upon the foundation his father has laid, that in years to come he may become a contractor or a consulting engineer. The Negro girl who goes to college hardly wants to return to her mother if she is a washerwoman, but this girl should come back with sufficient knowledge of physics and chemistry and business administration to use her mother's work as a nucleus for a modern steam laundry."

The same thing is true in agriculture. Instead of an inspiration to get ten acres of land on which to earn a living and work out a respectable destiny for himself and family, our agricultural graduates are hardly interested beyond a desk from behind which to teach agriculture to some more boys whose ambition will be the same.

Wouldn't it be a fine thing for the hard times among us if we could get away from the idea that there is something less honorable about starting in a very small way with something fundamental, and growing up from this to some of the big things that we are now taught to dream of?

MEXIA, T[illegible]
NEWS

NOV 23 1931

TRAINING THE NEGRO FARMER

FIVE hundred negro farmers of the Bi-Stone Empire [illegible] meeting at the fine Woodland school learn some of the better methods in farming and animal care from experts of the Texas A. & M. College Extension Service and Prairie View College, the state negro agricultural college.

Keeping a negro in ignorance and poverty does not make them better citizens. Education for the negro is making this humble element of our citizenship better able to take care of himself and his family, and improving the relation between the races.

The Southern negro is by nature a farmer, and giving him a chance to learn the better methods is of great benefit to the country as a whole. Mexia's opinion of the negro farm agent and the negro home demonstration agent of this section is that they are doing a splendid work.

Every colored boy and girl has the right to be taught to read and write, to understand some of the things about the country's history and customs, and also to learn to work

efficiently. The vocational classes of the colored schools are doing an especially fine job.

Agriculture - 1931

Virginia

Condition of

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD

FEB 12 1931

TOO MANY TENANT FARMERS

Taking Southampton county as an example, of the more than three thousand separate farms, a total of 2,134 are operated by tenants, and only 1,074 by owners. The four others enumerated are in the hands of managers. In practically all of the other counties of the state, particularly in the eastern sections, the percentage of tenant-operated farms is relatively as high. A government report shows that the average size farm of that county is eighty-three acres. Guessing, we would say that the small farms are operated in most part by Negroes and that members of that race compose the ~~bulk~~ of tenant farmers.

There are too many tenant farmers in Virginia and in all the states as for that. A preponderance of tenancy does not denote a healthy condition in rural sections and as long as it prevails it will have a depressing effect upon the agricultural industry. The tenant farmer by the very nature of things takes away from rather than adds to the value of property and the fertility of the soil. He is destructive rather than constructive and as a matter of course must get everything out of the soil with the least replacement possible. Then he cannot be by the very nature of things as high type of citizen or farmer as the man who owns and operates his own farm.

In this country where land is plentiful and comparatively cheap, tenant farmers should be the exception rather than the rule. They should be greatly in the minority and their numbers should be constantly decreasing. Ways can be found whereby the thrifty, industrious, intelligent tenant of today can be made a land owner tomorrow. Hundreds of farms are too large and might be reduced to advantage to their owners by establishing this class of tenants on small tracts, allowing them to work out part of the purchase price. Small farms might be sold on long time and thus turn other tenants into land owners. We believe that statistics will show that that state is most prosperous which has the fewest number of tenants and that communities which have an excess of non-landowners operating farms is least progressive and notably more backward than communities where ownership is vested in the man who lives on the land.

Alabama

Agriculture-1931

6

Improvement of

Live At Home Move Gaining

Advertiser 1-26-31

Alabama Takes Lead In Program For Improved Farm Methods In '31

Montgomery Ala

Alabama has taken the lead in a "live at home program" in 1931 and farmers bankers, merchants and other business men of more than one-half the counties in the State have enthusiastically approved the program with assurance reaching Montgomery that all counties will have fallen in line by the first of February.

Under the active leadership of R. G Arnold, J. T. High and Emmett Sizemore, district agents, county agents in each county have called county-wide meetings. During the past two weeks specialists of the extension service, the farm bureau and the department of agriculture have attended the meetings in various counties and discussed the present agricultural situation with those in attendance. Record breaking crowds have attended the meetings with as high as 3,000 attending some of the meetings. Many places have reported "overflowing courthouses."

Many of the counties have passed resolutions asking that Alabama be allotted its share of the $45,000,000 drouth relief appropriated by the Congress of the United States. All the meetings have approved a safe farming program for 1931. It has also been observed that farmers are determined as never before to solve their problems by working together and seeing each other through the depression. They are determined to make farming a paying proposition despite low prices. They realize that agriculture is a basic industry and if they can get it on a paying basis business will improve.

They have also expressed their realization that "farm relief starts at home and that the only true farm relief will come from the intelligent use of a lot of hard, honest labor and that governmental legislation, such as the formation of the Federal Farm Board, Federal Farm Loans, etc., are and will be designed to help only those who are actively engaged in 'heads-up' farming."

The program which they have adopted and are determined to carry out includes four points as follows:

"1. Make plans for ample production of feed for family needs and feeds for livestock. 2. Make some form of livestock a part of the permanent program. 3. Evade the surplus of cotton which robs us of a profit and which is increasing from year to year. 4. Add what other cash crops that our labor and farm conditions will justify for additional sources of cash."

Specialists who have been attending most of the meetings and highly recommending the above points to the farmers and business men include the district agents, F. W. Burns, extension service livestock specialist; J. C. Lowery, extension agronomist; J. B. Sylvest, extension marketing specialist; H. R. Bailey, poultry specialist; F. W. Gist, statistician of the Department of Agriculture; J. O Thompson of the Federal Farm Board, and others.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
Saturday, January 31, 1931

'FARM HOPE LIES IN ORGANIZATION'

Alternative Is Peasantry, Such As That In Europe, Says Edward A. O'Neal

"Organization is the only thing that can save American farmers from conditions similar to those of peasants in certain European sections," said President Edward A. O'Neal of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, in addressing the fourth annual conference of Montgomery County negro farmers here at the State Teachers' College yesterday.

More than 1,000 negroes were present. Mr. O'Neal urged them to join with their neighbors in an organized program to bring about equality for agriculture. He also made a strong plea for the addition of more livestock in the farming program. "Because of an inherent motherly instinct, negroes make excellent husbandmen," he said.

The conference also was addressed by Joseph O. Thompson, field representative of the Federal Farm Board; Dr. W. C. Bowman, Montgomery County health officer; C. J. Callaway, director of extension, Tuskegee Institute; Dr. T. M. Campbell, Tuskegee Institute; R. H. Harris and H. C. Ball.

Mr. Thompson emphasized the great need for reduction in acreage of cotton and urged adoption of the "live at home program" which calls for the production of more food and feed.

Stressing the economic loss due to ill health, Dr. Bowman made a plea for sanitation, screen houses, the growing of more vegetables in home gardens, and the addition of one or more cows as health measures.

The meeting was presided over by O. C. Crow, president of the conference and a "live at home program" was submitted to the farmers by L. A. Edmondson, county agent; J. T. Alexander, negro county agent, and A. M. Boynton, negro home demonstration agent.

Attracting much attention at the conference were prize exhibits of farm products produced by the negro farmers. These included meat, garden products, corn, eggs, canned vegetables and school girl dresses. Prizes were awarded winners.

Macon County Banks Suggest Farm Program

BACK TO THE FARM

The only slogan that will make a crisis like the present impossible.

Make a Vow

1. Make up your mind now to not only live from products raised on your farm, but always have a surplus to sell.

Plant Cotton

2. Plant cotton only as a cash money crop.

(a) Plant only good seed from a tested and proven variety recommended by your State Experiment Station. Adventure

(b) Prepare the ground thoroughly.

(c) Fertilize well.

(d) Stir the ground often to keep the cotton growing.

2-10-31

(e) Pick as fast as it opens.

(f) Follow only approved methods of fighting the boll weevil. Keep in close touch with your State Experiment Station. They will be glad to give you the latest and best methods.

Make Fertilizers

3. Many farmers this year will be too poor to buy sufficient quantities of commercial fertilizers for their crops. There are thousands of tons of the finest fertilizers going to waste in Macon County and many other sections of the South, in the form of decaying leaves of the forest and the rich sediment of the swamp, known as muck. Every idle moment from now until planting time should be put to gathering up these fertilizers.

Every farmer should see to it that a leguminous (pod bearing) crop follows an exhaustive one. Legumes are marvelous soil builders. Cow peas, velvet beans, peanuts, and Japan clover can all be planted this Spring. All make excellent hay for stock and the cow pea and peanut furnish an invaluable food for man.

The Austrian pea, hairy vetch, burr clover in the Fall.

Keep in touch with your State Experiment Station and county agent, who will give you detailed information on how and when to plant all of these legumes.

Make Milk and Butter

4. Every farmer should keep one or two good cows. A good, well cared for cow is half of any family's living, as she will furnish all the butter, milk, cream, etc., the ordinary family can use, and if properly cared for a surplus can be had to sell.

There are a number of foods that are more palatable, more healthful and more economical when seasoned with milk and butter, than when seasoned with lard or any other kind of shortening. Good bread, rich milk, and nice butter furnish an almost completely balanced ration.

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The garden should furnish many things for canning, pickling and preserving.

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A few guineas, ducks, turkeys, and a pair or two of geese will bring you much pleasure and profit with practically no cash outlay.

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(c) There is a great demand for hogs at all times. They are mortgage lifters and will pay any farmer out of debt if he will give them a chance.

Renters and Share Croppers

12. The above suggestions apply to the renters and share croppers with equal force. He too should set out trees, clean off ditch banks, make such repairs as he can, and in every way strive to leave the place in better condition than when he took possession. It will mean money in your pockets, aside from the great value of forming correct habits of living. Every landlord prizes a farmer of this kind and encourages him in every way possible. Such an individual begets the confidence and respect of every one with whom he comes in contact, making it easy to get assistance when needed.

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Pratville, Ala., [illegible]
Thursday, May [illegible], [illegible]

J. J. MYREE, COLORED IS GOOD FARMER

J. J. Myree is one of Autauga's negro farmers who is making an effort to make the farm self-sustaining and is succeeding admirably well. He owns his own farm of around 120 acres, 1 1-4 miles northwest of Joffree, and has 60 acres under cultivation this year. Many of his crops are already up, and he has two acres of watermelons planted in March that will come in early. Myree has proportioned his crops as follows: Cotton, 16 acres, corn and peanuts, 30 acres; cane, 1 acre, oats, 8 acres; wheat, 1 1-4 acres; watermelons, 2 acres; sorghum, 1 acre.

The Progress commends Myree to many colored farmers of this county as an example of what can be done. In addition to his success as a farmer Myree is held in high esteem by both the members of his race and the white people who know him.

North Wilkes[illegible] Patriot
[illegible], May 14, 1931

Negro Farmers Support Live-At-Home Work

Negro farmers in all parts of North Carolina are planning to support the live-at-home campaign this year and will farm to make a living first.

"While we have no accurate records of what the Negro farmers are doing except in the 18 counties where we have local agents employed, we do find a commendable attitude on the part of our colored citizens in these counties," says C. R. Hudson, farm demonstration worker at State College. "There have been 26,771 persons at the 322 meetings held to explain the live-at-home movement. At each of these meetings information was given out as to the possible influence of any large acreage to cotton and tobacco on prices this year. It was also shown that crops needed for home supplies can be grown at home much cheaper than they can be purchased."

Especially have the colored farmers been asked to grow an adequate supply of corn, hay, poultry and pork and to have a good garden. Emphasis has been placed on the garden and the results are excellent. In several counties, a survey shows that about every colored farm family has started a garden. In some others, pastures have been planted and arrangements made to secure milch cows.

Mr. Hudson says in Alamance county, the negro farmers have eggs, poultry and cream to sell after saving a good supply for home use. In Gates county, more corn, pigs and poultry will be raised than ever before. In Harnett county, 20 negro farmers have entered a home garden contest and 14, a corn contest. In Rowan and Iredell counties, a tremendous acreage has been planted to lespedeza and in Robeson county, 32 demonstrations in improved corn have been planted.

Red Springs [illegible]
Thursday, [illegible]

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The position of the home farm, Dr. Woods thinks, has been materially strengthened in recent years by a new development, the production of high-grade, home-produced commodities which command good prices when sold on nearby markets.

The farm woman is credited with taking the lead in this movement, and already thousands of local organizations have been formed which collect, grade, label, and certify the quality of the products and market them, either in nearby places or through some one employed to handle the work in more distant markets.

According to the article in The United States Daily, the growth of this movement is slow only in the Plains States. California, New England, and the Middle Atlantic States are mentioned as sections where it has made the greatest progress.

It is gratifying to note that the Southern States have not been cited as laggards in this regard, and we can recall offhand some home-farm products made in this section that are not enumerated in the article embodying the conclusions of Dr. Woods. Eggs, home-canned foods, fruits, needle work, and even furs, are catalogued, and to these, the local observer might add one or two home-farm items that have shown a pleasing tendency to increase in this section. There are the baskets, made from the pine needles of our Southern forests, not to mention similar articles constructed of other native materials. Also, we believe, that Southern product par excellence, the turkey-tail fan, immortalized many years ago by Alabama's present Poet Laureate, is being produced, and profitably, by some of our enterprising farm women.

Returning to the subject of large-scale farming, mention of which has been made as a possible factor of importance in the national scheme, the possibilities of this form of agriculture have probably bulked larger in the last year than at any other time in the history of the country. Banks, trust companies, and other financial institutions have, during the depression period, found extensive tracts on their hands as collateral for defaulted debts, which they must operate to avoid loss. The procedure has been generally for these financial houses to organize a corporation or other agency to take a charge of the farming operations, usually retaining the original owners of the forfeited areas to do the actual farm work. The farmer ordinarily receives a share of the crops, one-half of them being given him in many instances.

A general manager is placed in charge of the farms so combined for operation. Under his control, inefficient methods which may have been used by the farmers previously are eliminated, unproductive livestock is sold off and the most productive only is retained and improvements are made in many directions.

"Frequently," says The United States Daily, "the improved methods result in substantial profits, so that in a few seasons the farmers are enabled to buy back their farms. In the meantime they have learned efficient practices and are able to operate on a profitable basis. Thus everyone involved benefits, and the large-scale farm turns out to be only a temporary expedient."

Whether the large-scale farm, conducted successfully by the bank to recoup its losses, will stay a mere makeshift procedure, a hard-times emergency measure, remains to be seen. Big Business is, like Alexander, always looking for other worlds to conquer, and the successes encountered during the depression period, may inspire campaigns for "bigger and better farming," when things return to normal and new outlets for capital are sought.

Decidedly not without interest in this connection, is the 3,000-acre farm, established by Henry Ford near his Detroit plants. This project is designed for something more than raising on a grand scale the ordinary agricultural products for their accepted uses. Mr. Ford hopes that his farm engineers, chemists, soil experts and other scientists will, in this big earth laboratory, substantiate his contention that bilities of mass production in agriculture raw materials for industrial uses can be become a reality, it is cheering to reflect obtained from some of our conventional that the day of the "little fellow" as a food products. farmer still would be by no means over.

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Should either or both of these possi- force.

Pratville, Ala., Progress
Thursday, May 7, 1931

J. J. MYREE, COLORED IS GOOD FARMER

J. J. Myree is one of Autauga's negro farmers who is making an effort to make the farm self-sustaining and is succeeding admirably well. He owns his own farm of around 120 acres, 1 1-4 miles northwest of Joffree, and has 60 acres under cultivation this year. Many of his crops are already up, and he has two acres of watermelons planted in March that will come in early. Myree has proportioned his crops as follows: Cotton, 16 acres, corn and peanuts, 30 acres; cane, 1 acre, oats, 8 acres; wheat, 1 1-4 acres; watermelons, 2 acres; sorghum, 1 acre.

The Progress commends Myree to many colored farmers of this county as an example of what can be done. In addition to his success as a farmer Myree is held in high esteem by both the members of his race and the white people who know him.

North Wilkesboro, [illegible] Patriot
Thursday, May 14, 1931

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Agriculture - 1931

Florida

Improvement of.

Gainesville, Fla. Sun
Saturday, January 31, 1931

Negro Farmers Meet Here Next Saturday

Leading negro farmers in every community of Alachua county will meet at the Friendship Baptist Church, Saturday, February 7, it was announced yesterday by A. W. Rawls, county agent for negro farmers. The meeting will be in charge of Fred L. Craft, Alachua county agent.

The purpose of the meeting is to check on last year's plantings to see what crops were profitable and which were not. Plans and a program for the coming year will also be discussed at the session.

Negro farmers are planning to reduce the acreage of cotton and tobacco and plant more food stuff. Those that are living in truck growing districts are making as little debt as possible and planting just what their families can cultivate.

Half acre to garden, home use and sale.

One acre to sweet potatoes, home use, feed, and sale.

Four acres to cotton.

Half acre to sugar cane, Cayana No. 10.

Ten acres to pastures, sorghum, oats, rape (for grazing).

Five acres to Spanish peanuts, sale and feed.

They also signed up to begin with the following livestock:

Two brood sows per mule; 35 hens, family and sale; 2 milch cows home use and sale; 1 able-bodied horse or mule.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
Friday, May 29, 1931

FLORIDA NEGRO EXHIBIT IS READY

Is First State to Show North What Race Doing In Agriculture.

Arrangements have been completed and plans made for the exhibit of "Progress of Negro Farmers in Florida" in the American Fair Auditorium, Atlantic City, New Jersey, July 16 to August 26 according to announcement today. The Department of Agriculture reserved space for this exhibit adjoining the reservation engaged for the state exhibit in which to place an exhibit for negroes. J. A. MacIntosh, in charge of the state exhibit stated today that he is pleased with the progress being made by the negroes in the collection of articles of merit from the farm, home and schools representing twenty counties. This exhibit is being assembled under supervision of A. A. Turner, local district agent of the cooperative extension work among negroes, with resident headquarters at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Through the generosity of the South Florida Fair of Tampa, the exhibit is being placed intact at Tampa before leaving the state under the supervision of Mr. MacIntosh and the exhibit specialists of the South Florida Fair.

So far, Florida is the first state to provide for an exhibit of this kind and much interest is being manifested by the negroes as well as white citizens in the counties participating. The results of this showing on the part of the Negroes of Florida at this time and place is calculated to give information on a subject not yet presented in this form to the country in general.

Negro Farmers Of This County Proving Alert

Colored Farmers Have Signed Up For Much Good Work

The colored farmers of Jackson county, following good examples set by the white farmers, are progressing at a rapid rate.

The colored farmers have a County Agent of their own color, who is doing yeoman service in their interest. This agent is J. E. Granberry, who is very efficient and active.

Several important meeting have been held by the colored farmers which have been addressed by agricultural experts. A very large number of these farmers have signed an agreement with the County Co-operative Farmer's Association to plant the following crops:

Fourteen acres to corn, velvet beans and peanuts.

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TAMPA, FLA.
Tribune
JUN 2 - 1931

Progress Of Florida Negroes

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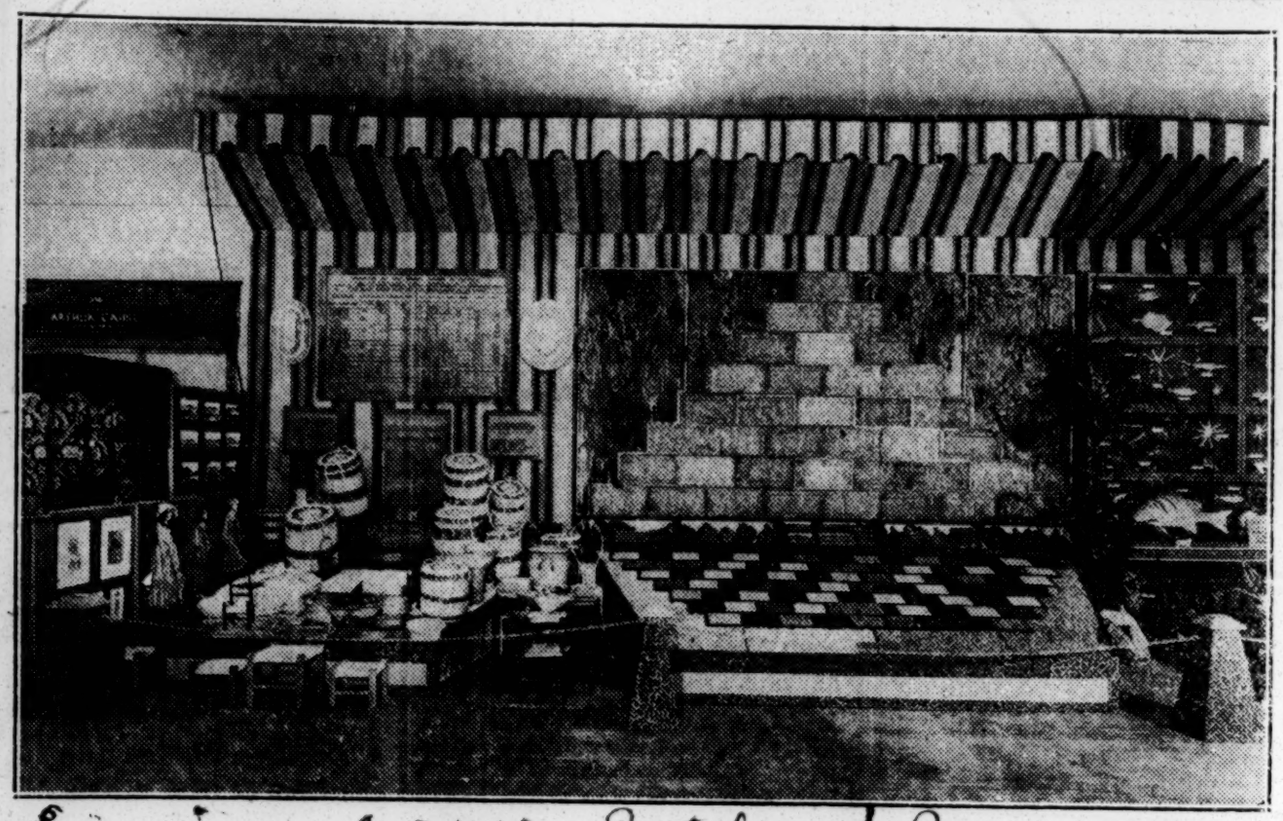
Agriculture-1931 Florida

Improvement of.

SHOWING THE NORTH WHAT FLORIDA FARMERS GROW



Courier 8-29-31 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Florida Farmers' Exhibit Shows Agricultural Progress Of South

Startling Facts Concerning Florida Farming Given to Thousands of Visitors At the American Fair In Atlantic City.

By CHAPPY GARDNER

ATLANTIC CITY, Aug. 277—An exhibition of the progress of the Negro farmers in Florida has been in session for more than four weeks at the American Fair in the world's largest auditorium, this city. The exhibit, occupying 25 by 10 feet, is timely labeled "Progress of the Negro Farmers in Florida." Interesting information has been carefully collected by Farm and Home Agents, Smith-Hughes teachers and Farmers' Co-operative Associations including 20 counties, and released by the Florida Farmers' Cooperative Association of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes of Tallahassee.

Plates ladened with grain of every description and variety fill one section of this exhibit at the mighty fair, while hand made articles such as fancy baskets, rugs, mats, miniature chairs, stools bottomed with corn shuck are included representing the handy work of farm folks from the "Sunshine State." Still in another section of the booth are seen many varieties of hay and forage grasses and when told by the courteous Mrs. Turner, in charge of the Home Industries that Florida produce more hay, grain and forage grasses than any other state, I was again astonished at the wonders of the peninsular state.

It was to encourage land ownership and cooperative farming among Negroes that caused federal aid to be given in 1913 when F. C. Robinson was appointed farm collaborator for Leon County. State aid became available in 1915 when A. A. Turner was appointed head of the extension work among Negroes with headquarters at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College under the Smith-Lover Act. It has been through these agencies working together that through Department of Agriculture of the state of Florida, with Mr. J. A. Meckintosh in charge, that the present creditable showing is made at the second American fair. Mr. A. A. Turner, in charge of the Negro Farm Demonstration work in Florida, has been commissioned to supervise the Negro exhibit.

Florida Negro Farmers Exhibit at American Fair at Atlantic City

Atlantic City, N. J.—The Florida State Department of Agriculture, in making plans for exhibiting at the second American Fair here this year, July 16 to August 26, reserved space adjoining the reservation secured for the State exhibit, in which to place an exhibit for Negroes.

Under the direction of J. A. McIntosh, in charge of the Florida State exhibit, and A. A. Turner, who is in charge of the Negro exhibit, a booth including 250 square feet of space has been filled with varied and interesting exhibit showing the progress of the race on the farm, which is substantiated by photos and statistics compiled by co-operating agencies engaged in the development of rural life.

Under the caption, "Progress of the Negro Farmer in Florida," the first exhibit collected by Negroes was installed in the auditorium of the American Fair and during the period of forty days will be viewed by more than a million visitors from all parts of the country.

The collection of home made articles from the counties represented is varied and interesting and show how in many cases individuals have learned how to make ready cash from Florida's natural resources found in abundance in each of the counties represented. S. D. Shaw of Dade County and resident of Miami, Fla., demonstrates daily to thousands of visitors how he earns his living making clothes hampers from palmetto reeds. Mrs. B. E. Cowart of Orange County and resident of Winter Park, Fla., has on display quite a collection of articles made from corn shuck, pine needles and wire glass.

The articles from display from the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute of St. Johns County and of the city of St. Augustine, headed by Dr. N. W. Collier, illustrates the kind and character of work taught the students attending that institution. The industry of chair bottoming with cane and mattress making is presented by W. A. Caldwell, also of St. Augustine, adding still another industry for the home. Mrs. K. B. Taylor of Orange County, residing at Orlando, Fla., has on exhibition a health chart, which shows the effort on the part of the State and local Boards of Health in the preservation of Negro health in rural districts of Florida.

The material for the exhibit was gathered by the Florida Farmers' Cooperative Association, with headquarters at the A. and M. College, Tallahassee, and Mrs. S. L. Turner of that college is assisting in explaining home industries to visitors.

The male quartet of the Florida N. and I. Institute, St. Augustine, broadcasts daily programs over station WPG at 9:15 p. m.

Agriculture-1931
Improvement of
NEW BERN, N. C
NEW BERNIAN
SEP 4 1931

"THE NEW SCHEME"

Two New Jersey men bring cattle from western Caro lina to Craven county, fatten them and market them at a profit.

An upstate farmer keeps animals and they reduce his fertilizer bills.

A Virginia negro farmer keeps hundreds of food con tainers in his home and makes keeping them filled his first consideration.

A Pitt county member of a queer sect who lives on a farm has a year's food supply in his larder.

And North Carolina produces record food and feed crops.

These are a few of many signs of the new order in this part of the country. The North State is taking the lead in diversified farming in the South; at least, it seems this is the case. It is saving many million dollars. North Carolina will not expend a quarter of a billion dollars for supplies northern states this year—not by a long shot.

North Carolina is beginning to farm in the same way that New England and the Middle Atlantic states farm, and the farmers of those regions have been vastly more prosperous than Tar Heel soil-tillers. It is beginning to realize that it is much nearer to the great markets of the country than Florida, California, Wisconsin and the majority of the states which have dumped their farm surpluses into New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore and the other cities of the industrial belt, and that it can compete with them with every advantage. North Carolina is on the way to a better day. Ere long the hard times of this period will be blessed for what they did for the state.—Kinston Free Press.

General
Commercial Appeal
H-22-31
Memphis, Tenn

Popular Country-Folk Dance This Winter.

A PRACTICAL COTTON PICKER REPORTED

The Washington correspondent of the International News Service quotes mechanical experts of the Labor Department as saying that the mechanical cotton picker problem has been solved. Reports to the Labor Department from a number of Southern experiment stations claim "practical perfection" for the machinery, which they claim will enable one man to harvest 4.4 acres in 12 hours. It is also stated that in some instances cotton gins have been adapted to the new method of harvesting, so that sledded cotton costs no more for ginning than that which is hand-picked.

"The loss in quality which at first resulted from sledding has also been eliminated, so that the labor-saving effected is a net gain," says the dispatch. The possible displacement of labor, so far as harvesting is concerned, is put at 83.5 per cent.

No information as to the cost of the new machinery is given. Before getting all warmed up about it let us wait for a more extensive practical test of the harvester.

Cotton Pickers To Do Work of 28 Men

WASHINGTON. — Mechanical experts of the argicultural experiment stations have recently given assurance of the practical perfection of cotton-harvesting machinery, by the use of which one man, with a four-row sled, can strip 4.4 acres of cotton in a 12-hour day.

The new machine will do the work of 28 men, and if adopted everywhere can displace 83.5 per cent of the hand cotton pickers.

The affect of the machine in the South will be awaited with interest, since most of the cotton pickers are colored.

Peonage has resulted from the South's efforts to keep cheap cotton pickers on the farms, and in the harvesting season, schools are closed, and both children and adults compelled to work in the fields.

In the meantime, the cotton gins have been adapted to the new method of harvesting cotton, so that sledded cotton costs no more for ginning than that which is picked by hand. The loss in quality that at first resulted from sledding has also been eliminated, so that the labor-saving represented above is a net gain.

Machinery Perfected

The perfected machinery is the result of an early idea of progressive cotton farmers who had experimented wtih the gathering of fallen "bollies" with a horse drag, at the same time stripping from the plants the bolls that had not fallen. The first drag was a section of picket fence, or what is called a "combination fence" in the Western staes, being constructed of wooden slats bound together with interwoven horizontal wires.

This section of fence was dragged over the cotto nrows in such manner that the wires caught the bolls, stripped them off the stems, and left them lyin gon the wooden strips of the drag. But the drag gathered up so much rubbish that the cotton could not be ginned. Nor to be discouraged, the farmer ran the stuff through his threshing machine, thus cleaning out enough of the rubbish to enable the gin to separate the fiber from the remainder.

Experts Go to Work

The idea was taken up by other farmers, and the experts of the agricultural experiment stations got to work on it. First, a rude wooden sled was constructed, with a "V"-shaped slot for catching the stalks and stripping off the bolls. The bolls were worked backward by the forward motion of the sled into a wooden box placed on the body of the sled. The first cotton sleds stripped only one row at a time, but were soon widened to cover two, three, and finally four or more rows.

11 Patents

Until quite recently the only effective machine employed in the production of cotton was the gin, which revoluticnized the industry at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Many attempts were made to devise a machine that would reduce the slow and difficult labor of picking the bolls from the stalk, but with little success. Hand-picking was a very slow process and extremely costly, even where cheap labor was available. The figure given in the thirteenth annual report of the Commissioner of Labor is 77 man-hours for picking one acre (one 750-lb. bale) of cotton. Between 1850 and 1863, eleven patents for cotton-pickers were issued, none of which was successful. Up to the beginning of the World War in 1914, practically all cotton was harvested by hand.

Wide adoption of the new cotton picker is expected to liberate millions of farm workers for Southern plantations. Cotton culture will hereafter require skilled instead of unskilled workers, and the migration of farm workers into the industrial centers will be expedited.

How vitally colored people may be affected by the new invention may be seen from the fact that of the 40,000,000 acres of cotton in Southern states, one-half are cultivated by 900,000 colored farm owners and tenants. The white farms are cultivated in part, by 1,500,000 colored farm laborers. The entire colored farm population of the South is estimated at 4,000,000.

Two fifths of the entire U.S. cotton crop is produced by colored farmers.

COTTON PICKING MACHINE MAY SUPPLANT NEGRO

Washington, D. C., Nov. 28.—(AP)—The Negro cotton picker, immortalized in song and story of the old south, soon may be cleared from the snowy rows of the southland's greatest crop.

A machine, practical and money saving, is ready to take his place. The labor department says it will do the work that used to take one man 77 hours in less than three hours. Four out of every five persons formerly needed to harvest the fibre as it burst from the bolls will have to find other work in picking time.

The department quoted mechanical experts of agricultural experiment stations as authority for the statement that practical perfection of cotton harvesting machinery has arrived. It is the first great improvement in methods of handling cotton since Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin more than a century ago. Not only has the machine for picking arrived, but the cotton gin has been more fully perfected to prevent loss of quality by machine picking.

Agriculture - 1931

Georgia

Intermount n.

Jamaica Negro Farms Profitably On Three Acres of Georgia Land

DAWSON, Ga., Dec. 5.—Frank J. Pssco, Jamaican negro, residing in Calhoun, Terrell's neighbor county, has a record of his own in making a success of a truck farm that comprises little more than three acres of ground, according to a remarkable story that has been related in Dawson by a white friend of the negro.

Pssco, it is said, has been a citizen of the United States for 26 years and a resident of Calhoun for nine years. He was born in Kingston, Jamaica, British West Indies. He attended common school in Kingston, later studied in Edinburgh and holds his degree as a bachelor of science from Oxford University, England.

He owns his own home in Arlington—a tidy, well-kept house of six rooms. He is married, has three children and takes care of his wife's mother. His place is neat and clean. Inside the house every earmark of tidiness is in evidence. He farms but a scant three and a half acres of land, and on that tract he always has something green to sell. Right now among the vegetables he is supplying his home and neighboring town trade, are bell peppers, squash, beets, beans and rutabagas. In a carefully kept book he shows his daily operations, costs and results. His books show that he sells some sort of vegetable most every day during the 365. His income from such sales runs from 90 cents to $9 a day.

Pssco doesn't believe in making long hauls to bigger markets, but instead finds, he says, a ready demand in the towns of Calhoun county for more than he can raise. In 1930 his net income, after everything was paid, from his three and one-half acres was $897.32.

Pssco says "the white man is the colored man's best friend, but the time has come when the negro must make himself an asset instead of a liability to his white friends."

Pssco has a complete drawing of what he calls "a 30-acre one-horse farm." He states that in southwest Georgia this 30-acre plan is a success because of its diversified crops. He has tried it out and made good and is arranging a similar acreage for his 1932 farming program.

Georgia

Agriculture - 1931
Improvement of

Jefferson,
Thursday

GEORGE WILLIAMSON, COLORED, A TYPICAL SOUTHERN FARMER

Editor Commerce News:

Quite a lot is being written and said at this time about a well balanced farm program for 1931. It's a natural consequence when we fall upon evil times; everyone you hear talk or read after has a panacea. In the daily press and weekly also, you read of the best thing to do. Much of which is good advice, but a lot of it is very largely synthetic.

On Saturday afternoon, Nov. 29, I drove over to the Eckles old homestead, on the Oconee, which is now owned by Mr. Douglas Eckles, and worked by George Williamson, colored. In April of this year, I was over there, and he had sixteen bales of cotton piled up. I noticed this Saturday evening fourteen bales produced this year.

In conversation with him, I found he had made plenty of corn, potatoes, syrup, hay and feedstuff to run the farm.

He had two mules hitched to a two-horse plow, and I told him I wanted to go down to the river, and he said follow him.

When we turned the hill, in view of second bottom land, I could see all sizes and ages of darkies cutting corn stalks, and briars, preparing the way for his plow.

He was preparing the land for his 1931 corn crop. Keep in mind this next to the last day of November, and on Saturday evening at that.

Having read so much about the much mooted farm question, I decided that while I would give Columbus credit for discovering America, Dr. Crawford Long for discovering anesthetic, Edison for incandescent lamp, Dr. Koch for the discovery of tubercular basillis, Dr. Nouchi for findng the mosquito that carried the yellow fever germ; but I had discovered a simple and effective solution of the farm problem. If you will do way with the buying of everything that goes to make the crop you will have no need for a farm program.

JOHN M. CARSON.

Commerce, Ga., Dec. 15, 1930

FOR COLORED FARMERS.

Bulloch county negro farmers mus surely have learned some valuable lesson at the two-day conference in Statesboro where their problems were discussed. They were told of a program which if applied to their farming, is likely to make them find some profit in their labor and some feeling that independence is possible. The basis of the program is a division of their acreage between "living" crops and "money" crops. A thirty-acre farm gives only ten acres to cotton and two to tobacco. It provides food for the farm family and feed for the farm stock. It provides for keeping something to eat on the table, whatever may happen to cotton and tobacco and it provides enough of these for cash money along in the latter part of the year What with chickens and pigs and a cow and the needed work stock, a family ought to get along mighty well on that program

Along with the farm crop talking was another talk, and this one was on health. What's the use of all the planning and the working unless there is health in the colored farmer's home? The unhealthy farm family could not make a profit with the finest farming advice in the world; while a healthy family has the best chance to find a profit at the end of the year with just the sort of farming advice which the Statesboro conference gave. This conference is an excellent method to adopt to give good advice where it is particularly needed; similar conferences should be held all over the state.

COLORED FARMERS ADOPT A PROGRAM

MEETING IN BULLOCH

Farmers and Teachers Hold Conference in Statesboro

Statesboro, Ga., Feb. 7.—The colored farmers of Bulloch county adopted a farm program here today at the close of a two-day farmers and teachers' meeting held at the Statesboro High Industrial School. This is believed to be the first colored farm program adopted in the state.

The colored farmers and teachers in Buloch county in session here for two days developed a most worthwhile program around "How Farmers and Teachers of the County Can Best Co-operate." Talks were made by A. R. Pope, veteran colored teacher and farmer who presided at the meeting. William James, principal of the local school; Prof. C. W. Duval of Boggs Academy; Julia F. Bryant Jeanes, industrial supervisor for the county.

Mrs. Hazel Losseff, county health nurse made an address at today's meeting, warning the colored folk to use all precaution by vaccinating against contagious disease.

Th regional farmers and teachers' meeting was held simultaneously with the conference and a number of representatives from adjoining counties were present.

The program adopted by the colored farmers, for a thirty-acre farm, follows: Ten acres cotton, twelve in corn, velvet beans and peanuts; two in oats; two in watermelons; two in tobacco and two in garden and sweet potatoes.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
Friday, February 13, 1931

LEVER TO SPEAK TODAY IN MACON

Representative of Farm Board to Address Two Groups

ACREAGE CUT TO BE TOPIC

The Reduction of Cotton Acreage for 1931 will be discussed today by A. F. Lever, Columbia, S. C., representative of the federal farm board, before two audiences here. He will speak at the city hall auditorium at 11 o'clock this morning before a gathering of farmers and business men of the vicinity. Mr. Lever is a former congressman and was instrumental in framing the bill creating county agent work about 20 years ago.

In the afternoon, he will address a gathering of Negro farmers and demonstration agents at Central City college on the same subject. His address at that time will be part of an all-day program to which Negro farmers will bring exhibits and a number of Negro county agents will participate.

One of the principal speakers will be T. M. Campbell, of Tuskegee institute, who was a recent recipient of the Harmon award for his work as a county agent. He was the first Negro agent appointed under the Smith-Lever bill. The Negro program has been arranged by S. H. Lee, Negro agent of Bibb county.

D. F. Bruce, county agricultural agent, announced that both the city hall meeting and the session at Central City college, where soil improvement, feed and food stuffs will be emphasized, are open to the public.

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
Sunday, February 22, 1931

HOME-CURED MEAT SHOWING PLANNED BY NEGRO AGENT

FORT VALLEY, Ga., Feb. 21. — Plans are being made now for the 14th annual home cured meat show to be held here on March 5-6, by the Negroes of Peach and Houston counties under the direction of O. S. O'Neal, Negro county agent.

O'Neal is the oldest Negro agent in point of service in the state. He has been in the work for the past 17 years and one of his activities in the home cured meat show. He originated the idea after visiting Negro homes in his territory and discovering that families of as many as 14 members often had only one ham and a small supply of bacon to last the entire winter. The head of the family told O'Neal that he would be forced to buy meat for his use during the season.

Then the agent had the idea of the meat show which would prove to the farmers the necessity of raising hogs for their own use and making a profit by selling surplus meat. The first show was held on February 1-7, 1917, at the Fort Valley High and Industrial school. Home cured hams were on display and speakers talked to the Negroes on how to raise hams and how to cure them for preservation.

The meat shows were continued and approval of the state agricultural authorites. Dr. J. Phil Campbell, director of the extension department of the State College of Agriculture; Dr. A. G. Richardson, vetinery medicine authority from Athens; W. T. Anderson, editor of The Macon Telegraph; T. M. Campbell, field agent of the Tuskegee Institute; George Carver of Tuskegee, and Prof. H. A. Hunt, of the Fort Valley High and Industrial school are among those who have spoken at the meetings and have given encouragement to the movement.

A state meat show is held in connection with the Southeastern fair in Atlanta each year and each year for the past six, O'Neal's show has won first prize. Last year's show was the largest ever held, 12 counties exhibiting 504 pieces of hickory smoked hams and breakfast bacon.

The meat show, which opens on March 5 is said by O'Neal to be one of the biggest that he has promoted and he has been working for several months gathering a representative display of the products of the people who are working under his supervision in raising hogs and curing meat.

NEGRO YOUTH TO GET CORN, COTTON PRIZE

Constitution
3-27-28-3/
Atlanta Ga.

QUITMAN, Ga., Feb. 27.—Saturday will be a proud day for Brooks County Training School for Negroes at Simmon Hill, when Stanley Bacon, 17, will receive two cash prizes of $50 each as proof of supremacy over the whole state in corn and cotton work.

He was one of 10 boys at the school who cultivated two-acre projects in corn and cotton. He made 190 bushels of corn on two acres and 1,749 pounds of lint cotton on two acres, which was the best record in the state in this contest.

L. M. Sheffer, state supervisor of vocational agriculture; M. D. Mobley, assistant supervisor, and other state school officials will appear on the program.

Student Sets Two Records in Cotton-Corn Contests

By THOMAS N. ROBERTS

ATLANTA, Feb. 27.—At the close of the second cotton and corn contests sponsored by the Georgia state board for vocational education and the Chilean nitrate of soda educa- schools, announces that Albert S. Bational bureau, Alva Tabor, supervisor of agricultural educational for Race con, Smith-Hughes agricultural student of the Brooks County Training school at Dixie, as winner of the first prizes in both contests. Bacon produced 190 bushels of corn on two acres at 15.7 cents per bushel and 1,749 pounds of lint cotton on two acres at the cost of 5.8 cents per pound. His average yields were 95 bushels of corn and 874.5 pounds of lint cotton per acre. Bacon will receive $100 for his achievement. E. E. Williamson is his teacher of vocational agriculture.

The contests are an annual event to encourage cheaper and greater production of Georgia's staple crops among vocational agricultural students.

In 1929 the highest yield in the two-acre cotton contest was 1,230 pounds of line cotton at 5.3 cents. In 1930 the highest cotton yield is 1,749 pounds of lint cotton at 5.8 cents per pound. An increase of 519 pounds of lint cotton. The hgihest yield of corn in the 1929 contest was 142.7 bushels on two acres at the cost of 34 cents per bushel. While in 1930 the first prize winner produced 190 bushels of corn on his two acres at a cost of 15.7 cents per bushel. An increase of 47.3 bushels. The state average for 1930 is 12.5 bushels of corn per acre and 157 pounds of lint cotton. These boys are confirming the possibilities of Georgia soil.

The three highest producers in the cotton and corn contests are:

Cotton — Albert S. Bacon, Dixie, taught by E. E. Williamson; Arthur Wright, Leslie, and Leroy Hammond, Leslie, both taught by J. A. Coachman.

Corn — Albert S. Bacon, Dixie, taught by E. E. Williamson; William S. Mack, Statham, taught by H. C. Moon, and John McCornell, Riceboro, taught by E. Z. Phillips.

Valdosta, Ga. Times
Friday, February 27, 1931

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L. M. Sheffer, State supervisor of vocational agriculture; M. D. Mobley, asisstant supervisor, and other State school officials, will appear on the program at Simmon Hill today.

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An important feature of the program will be the delivery of two state prizes won by Stanley Bacon, a pupil of the school. The Chilean Nitrate of Soda educational bureau offered $50 for the best yield of cotton on two acres and $50 for the best yield of corn on two acres in the state of Georgia and Stanley Bacon won both prizes. These prizes will be delivered by Mr. Bonner.

Inspection of the school and short informal talks by guests will be part of the program.

[illegible]
Thursday, [illegible], 1931

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Dawson, Ga. News
Thursday, April 2, 1931

Brooks County Negro Boy Makes Fine Farm Record

Made 190 Bushels of Corn and 1,749 Pounds of Cotton on 2-Acre Tracts.

Albert Bacon, 17-year-old negro boy, who is enrolled in the vocational agriculture class in the Brooks County Training School, at Dixie, won first prize in the statewide two-acre corn contest in which all negro boys enrolled in vocational agriculture classes in the state were eligible for participation, according to announcement of M. D. Mobley, of Tifton, in charge of vocational work in south Georgia.

Albert made 1,749 pounds of lint cotton on two acres at a cost of 5.1 cents per pound and 190 bushels of corn on two acres at a cost of 15 cents per bushel, according to records which were kept on his farm operations.

For this outstanding accomplishment young Bacon was awarded two $50 prizes by the Chilean Nitrate of Soda Educational Bureau. W. J. Davis, of Tifton made the presentation.

In producing 1,749 pounds of lint on two acres Bacon used 600 pounds of 12-4-4 fertilizers and side dressed with 200 pounds of nitrate of soda and 100 pounds of muriate of potash

Waycross, Ga. Journal-Herald
Tuesday, March 31, 1931

NEGRO CONTEST FOR FARMSTEADS

Rules Explained by Clifford Tapley, Local Negro Agent.

The Georgia Extension Service with headquarters for Negro work at the Georgia State Industrial College, Georgia, announces a contest for Negro farmstead improvement. This contest will consist of farm records kept from November 1, 1930, through November 30, 1931.

Any farmer, regardless to type of farming, may enroll by filling out the first column of the inventory section, supplied by Clifford Tapley, Negro farm demonstration agent at Waycross. This will be returned for completion just prior to the close of the contest. Help may be secured from any source in filling out the inventory as all are subject to verification.

County prizes will be awarded to each of the three farmers who succeed in bring about the greatest number of improvements on his farm and in his home during the period of the contest. (County prizes to be announced.) In addition to the county awards, three prizes will be given to the three farmers who make the best records in farmstead improvement in the state. The first prize will be $100 in gold, second prize, $50 in gold and third prize, $25 in gold.

The county prizes will be awarded at the Annual County Farmers' Conference following the close of the contest. The State prizes are to be awarded at the Rural Life Conference at the Georgia State Industrial College in August following the close of the contest.

Impartial judges in each county will check behind the inventories

HERALD
Albany Ga.
SEP 25 1931

THE FARMER MUST HAVE A SQUARE DEAL.

A letter writer to the New York Herald-Tribune asked the pertinent question, what is to become of the millions of Negroes employed in raising cotton in the South if there is no cotton crop next year? And what is to be done with the other superfluous crops that are raised if all the cotton acreage is given over to vegetables, small fruits and grains? There is more than one serious angle to the proposition of a total absence of cotton in 1932.—Savannah Morning News.

And while we are wondering about things to be done, let us wonder what is to be done if the farmers of the South raise another cotton crop of twelve, thirteen or fourteen million bales.

The farmers and their spokesmen declare that unless the states enact laws to prevent cotton planting there will be no material reduction of cotton acreage. In other words, they demand laws to compel them to do what they are perfectly free to do without any laws, though undoubtedly that state of mind is largely inspired by their feeling of helplessness.

Yes, what is to be done to provide work for Negro farm laborers if no cotton is planted in 1932? And if other crops are planted in place of cotton, where are markets for these other crops to be found?

And if another big cotton crop is planted, how many debts will the farmer be able to pay and what will he be able to buy with the proceeds of $10-a-bale cotton, which would be inevitable should another normal cotton crop be produced?

A great many excited people are running round in circles and shouting that unless something is done about cotton next year there'll be several kinds of cataclysms. Two cotton states pass no-cotton laws with strings tied to them; the greatest cotton state passes an acreage limiting law which its critics say cannot possibly be enforced, and the other cotton states are trying to decide what to do, if anything.

Labor accuses capital of not seeing farther than the end of its nose when it reduces wages, and capital retorts that labor is unwilling to make its share of the sacrifices demanded by these critical times.

But neither capital nor labor faces as well-nigh hopeless a situation as does the farmer, who works twelve to fourteen hours a day, mortgages everything but his wife, his children and his church membership in order to produce a crop, and then cannot sell it for enough to pay half his debts. He does all the work and assumes all the risk in making a crop, yet he has no voice whatever in determining the selling price of what his toil has produced.

What's the answer?

Unless the blindly stubborn men who have managed to corral most of the wealth of the nation see a great light, something most unpleasant probably will happen. We have no sympathy with communism, or with mob spirit, or with any form of lawlessness, but history teaches that the Pharaohs down [illegible] country are wise, they will see that one thing very impressively—thatlief are rejected as impractical, American republics in this year he gets it. We will never have prosperity again till the farmer gets on when a great class finds itself fac-then is there danger of revolution.1931.

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Agriculture - 1931
& Improvement of.

Georgia.
6

"OUTLOOK FOR THE COLORED FARMER THIS YEAR"

The colored farmer represents 45 per cent or almost one half of the total farm population within the great State of Georgia—the Empire State of the South. And when we review the outlook for the colored farmer this year, we are reviewing the outlook for one half of our total farm population.

We have come to the end of an era and leaders all over the world are making plans and programs for the future social mental, physical and economic development of all the people, and those who have the sacred trust to plan a future and a life for the people in the rural sections of Georgia, do well to include that half of the rural population represented by the colored people.

While I count it a privilege and an honor to appear before you today to discuss the outlook for the colored farmer this year, I realize that this is a question which I or, any individual cannot fully predict.

"When a man is in New Jersey remembered the approaching birthday of his friend in Georgia, he sent him a small bottle of cherries which had been put up in whiskey. The gentleman in Georgia wrote a note of thanks to his friend in New Jersey, saying, "Thanks for your birthday gift. I do not care for the cherries, but I certainly appreciate the spirit in which they were sent." I do not care to be called upon to talk on a subject of such great importance, but I do appreciate the spirit in which the invitation was sent.

The Agricultural Situation As It Pertains to the Colored Farmer

The colored farmer is a cotton farmer; the outlook for the colored farmer this year is virtually the same as the outlook for America cotton; the outlook for the colored farmer next year and in years to come will be really reflections of the changing position and relationship of cotton in the economic prosperity of the State.

The colored farmer raises 39 per cent of the cotton produced in the United States; 21 per cent of the sweet potatoes; 10 per cent of the tobacco; 9 per cent of the rice; 3.5 per cent of the corn; and 1 per cent of the potatoes.

In the South the value of horses and mules is 63.1 per cent of all livestock on colored farms as compared with 42 per cent on white farms, and this shows that the average colored farmer is not producing livestock products for sale and that his chief source of money income is cotton. Therefore, when we know the outlook for American cotton .we at the same time know the outlook for the colored farmer this year.

The Outlook This Year for American Cotton

In 1920 India produced very little cotton of tendearble staple, that is, of staple measuring 7-8 of an inch or over in length, but from 1925 to 1930, approximately 38 per cent of India's production on an average was 7-8 to one and three-thirty seconds inches, which comes in direct competition with the bulk of America's crop. The seed for cotton improvement in foreign countries has been largerly from America. In 1923 Russia produced 34,000 bales, which increased to 1,900,000 bales in 1930, and plans are on foot which are being systematically carried out to increase Russia's production to at least 3,000,000 bales by 1935.

We are told that we now have on hand a carryover of about 8,000,000 bales of American cotton. In 1923 a supply (carryover plus crop) of 12,465,000 bales brought $1,807,425,000 at the farm, or $145.00 per bale; in 1924 a supply of 15,184,000 bales brought $1,746,160,00 at the farm or $115.00 per bale; in 1925 a supply of 17,714,000 bales brought $1,611,974,000 at the farm or $90.00 per bale; in 1926 a supply of 21,454,000 bales brought $1,179,000 or $55.000 per bale.

The outlook, therefore, is for a continuation of relatively low prices for the cotton crop of 1931, unless a drastic cut in acreage is made by farmers.

The Relation of the Outlook for the Colored Farmer This Year to the Economic Prosperity of the State

Growers know what has happened in years of low prices of cotton for the belt as a whole. In many sections of the South when two years of crop failure have come in succession, banks have failed and farmers and laborers have moved from farms to industry. What would happen if both 1930 and 1931 should be years of low cotton prices? It would bring economic ruin, not only to a large number of colored farmers but to the busines interests of the South as well.

How Can the Outlook for the Colored Farmer be Improved This Year

It is said that, the most prosperous and progressive communities are those in which the greatest number of people participate in the good things of life; that is, consume in the largest measure the products and services of themselves and others. This, of course in turn is measured by their own production and buying power. ut in times like these, when normal production exceeds demand, well organized and successfully conducted industries curtail production in line with the demand. According to the census of 1925, out of every 100 cotton farmers, 15 produced no chickens or eggs; 27 produced no milk or butter and 45 produced no pork or lard Gardens were likewise both too few and in many instances not well cared for.

Colored farmers must be encouraged and taught to grow a home garden, milk one or more cows, produce enough chickens and eggs for his own requirements and hogs for a portion of the meat supply for his family. This, for the most part is a responsibility of the landlord.

(We are also told that the basis of economic independence in the farming industry is the possession of land, and it would seem that one of the best ways to improve the outlook for the colored farmers is to encourage an promote land ownership for the worthy farmer.

The banker is the key man in an program of agricultural production or marketing in a community. Bankers have the opportunity to lead the way in financing and encouraging sound programs of agricultural production and by so ding the outlook for the colored farmers will be improved.

What of the Futrue Outlook for the Colored Farmer

According to the Federal Farm Board—"During the next 10 years the price of cotton may be expected to average considerably lower than during the last 10 years. Declining price levels for all commodities, increased use of machinery in cotton growing, increased production of cotton in Russia, all point to lower prices than have prevailed since the World War.

This prospect makes it imperative for many southern farmers permanently to readjust their farming program so that cotton will not be their only source of cash income.

If the tragic condition of the world and our State leaves us unstirred, if we draw no lessons from it, if there is no fiery stirring of will in the hearts of leaders to make a better economic life for all the people, then indeed it will, fail to attract or hold its population, and the farmers, white and colored alike, will go to the already overcrowded industrial centers, and the problem of the unemployed will get still keener.

The outlook then, for the colored farmer this year and for years to come will be really reflections of the changing position and relationship of cotton in the economic prosperity of the state.

SPRINGFIELD FARMERS SELL POULTRY IN ATLANTA MARKET

According to E. G. Washington, head of the Springfield Agricultural and Industrial School, and also marketing agent for the negro farmers in the northern section of this county, they sold last week on the Atlanta market over $200.00 worth of fryers. The chickens were carried by Prof. Washington, assisted by some of the other farmers, to Atlanta and sold for a fancy price. They plan to make regular trips to Atlanta during the next few months to sell the products from their farms.

The thrift and energy displayed by these negro farmers is commendable and their example could well be emulated by farmers, both white and colored over the county. When our farmers have home products to sell every time they come to town, giving them cash money to buy what they want, our farming conditions will be on the upgrade and success will crown their efforts.

Progressive Negro Farmer.

Cultivating his land according to the instructions given him by D. C. Boykin, negro county agent, William Baker, negro farmer of the Barretts section, will have an early cotton crop this year if old Jupiter Pluvius will help him out in the near future. Boykin submitted the second cotton bloom of the season at The Times office Tuesday, it coming off Baker's farm. Baker is considered one of the most progressive negro farmers in this section.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 26 1931

GEORGIA INITIATES HER FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Committee of One Hundred Wins the Approval of President Hoover.

BILL MAY RESTORE LASH

Sponsor Contends That It Is More Humane Than Sweat Boxes and Stocks.

By GEORGE HATCHER.

Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATLANTA, July 23.—The experience and guidance of outstanding Georgia leaders in agriculture, industry, business and finance have been combined in a patriotic, non-political organization known as the Committee of One Hundred, and through practical leadership and liberal cooperation a five-year plan of quickened prosperity has been undertaken.

With the definite aim of restoring Georgia "to its former position as Empire State of the South," the committee's program is as broad and varied as the State's potentialities and needs.

Its major objectives include the creation of a permanent economic council, representative of capital, labor, agriculture and the public, as a clearing house for facts and projects; the formulation of measures to regulate and solve, so far as possible, the employment problem; the promotion of extensive use of Georgia products; building of new industries; development of the marketing of graded, selected and identified farm products; encouragement of community development and the extension of electric power service through rural areas; to stress the advantages of diversified farming and the use of modern merchandising methods for farm, dairy and poultry products; attraction of outside capital and new population, and the general advancement of industry, transportation, reforestation and education.

While the committee is proceeding cautiously, but making satisfactory progress, the movement is being lauded as the most practical and prominent endeavor in Georgia since reconstruction.

Commended by President.

President Hoover was among the first to commend the formation of the Committee of One Hundred. In a letter to C. F. Redden, who for several years was associated with the Howard E. Coffin interests in the development of Sea Island Beach, Georgia coastal resort, Mr. Hoover said:

"The spirit of individual initiative and effort is the backbone not only of American business but of American institutions. When this spirit animates group movements for the common good, salutary results may be expected. I have been interested to learn of the organization and objectives of the Committee of One Hundred of the State of Georgia to promote more effective citizen participation in the commercial and civic progress of the State. I should like to extend my good wishes for its success."

Governor Richard B. Russell Jr. noted the advent of the committee as a "healthy sign of the times" and predicted it will be of untold benefit to the State. The great import of the idea, as the Governor views it, is the mustering of leaders for united effort and the mobilization of constructive forces to carry out a definite program. In Mr. Russell's opinion, such cooperation not only will increase the State's prosperity but also will stimulate at home and abroad a keener appreciation of the advantages of Georgia.

Referring to plans for encouraging new capital, increasing population by appealing to the home-seeker and attracting the nation's sportsmen and vacationists, Mr. Russell asserted "it will not only expand our volume of trade but will provide tenants for our vacant stores and farms, increase our property values and lighten our tax loads."

Governor Russell sounded a new and encouraging note in administrative methods by pledging his full support to the committee's purposes, concluding that "a sincere and effective cooperation between the Committee of One Hundred and the State Government will go far toward bringing to a successful conclusion measures necessary to Georgia's early prosperity and future welfare."

The Georgia Legislature is confronted wth the prospect of considerable furor over a measure which would restore the lash in chain-gang camps. Despite the fact that numerous organizations and citizens have voiced vigorous opposition, Representative E. R. King, author of the bill, has indicated he will continue to support the issue until it is disposed of.

A hearing on the measure before the Committee on Prisons resulted in a favorable recommendation and it will be reported back to the House with a request for its passage. Representative King contends that sweat boxes and stocks now in use at various county camps are more inhumane than the lash. Representative T. J. Purdy has strongly denounced the measure on the ground that many prisoners have been killed by the lash, which he characterizes as "a barbaric form of punishment." Representative J. Oscar Hall joins Representative King with the assertion that "the lash has a psychological effect on Negroes which no other instrument can produce" and that "conditions today in many chain gangs are unbelievable."

Many other legislators appear strongly divided, while newspapers in the State are almost unanimous in assailing the proposal as a measure that would authorize an ugly practice of brutality and thus provide a new obstacle in the State's progress.

NEGRO FARMER GETS HIGH HONORS

Americus, Sept. 21—Samuel Hill, Negro farmer who lives about 11 miles south of Americus, made the best record in a five year development and diversification program conducted by E. Stallworth, Negro agricultural agent of Sumter county. Hill has three pure bred milk cows. Since 1927 he has sold surplus cream to the American Creamery to the extent of $774.58. During the same period he sold hogs through cooperative hog sales to the amount of $495. At present he has a beautiful bunch of pigs being developed for cooperative marketing. Hill maintains an excellent flock of pure bred Barred Rock hens which are a regular source of income. For more than two years he has furnished a single customer with two dozen eggs per week without missing a single week.

Through the influence of his county agent, Mr. Hill has adopted improved farm machinery. Aside from two riding cultivators, a mow and binding machine, he has also a tractor and thrashing machine. During 1929 and last year he made $1,551.08 thrashing peanuts for neighbors. In discussing the labor saving feature of his tractor and binder, he stated that during the spring he attached his binder to the tractor in harvesting a ten acre plot of oats, eliminating three mules and two men. In planting peanuts, he attached a four plow equipment to his tractor, displacing three men and four mules.

Hill married in 1911. His wife shares a portion of his honors. He has one boy who, while he was a member of the 4H Club, won county honors with his pig three years in succession. The boy is at present attending Tuskegee Institute from which he graduates next year with a useful trade. Mr. Hill is one of the main men of his community responsible for the erection of a beautiful Rosenwald school, a boys' work shop and teachers' cottage.

Mr. Hill began farming as a cropper. He now owns 95 acres of land on which he has erected a comfortable home.

HERALD
Albany Ga
SEP 29 1930

"IT'S DIS WAY, BOSS:"

He was a Negro farmer, who rents a little place for which he agreed to pay two bales of cotton for this crop year. He had come to town in his wagon to make a few modest purchases, and was ready to start for home. Asked how he would come out on his year's farm operations, he replied:

"It's dis way, boss. I rented a little piece o' land wid a two-room house an' a little barn on it, an' I reckon I'm gwine come out pretty well, thank de Lawd. I owns my mule and wagon, and I promised to pay de man I rents from two bales o' cotton. I made three bales, an' dat leaves me one to sell.

"I made a nice crap o' peanuts, but I don't want to sell 'em at dese present prices lessen I haf' to. I'm gwine let my hogs gather part o' de crap—yessir, I got hogs. I'll make meat enough to run me right on through nex' summer. I got plenty o' corn an' fodder for my plenty o' sweet potatoes, an' I'm gwine make my own syrup. Dey's some pecan trees on de place, an' de white man tol' me I could have de nuts. Dey's all seedin's. I hopes to sell a few hund'ed poun's, an' keep enough fer me an' the ol' woman an' de two chillun.

"Course meat and bread an' sweet potatoes an' syrup an pecans ain't no king's rations, but dey mean we ain't gwine go hungry in de winter. We saved some dried peas an' butter beans, I got a good collard patch, an' I 'spect to sell de yuther bale o' cotton long 'bout Chris'mus time. I sho' worked hard, an' so did de ole woman an' my oldes' boy. I don't see much money comin' in—maybe enough for some shoes an' a little sugar an' coffee an' terbacker, but—well, boss, I reckon I ain't got no right to complain."

Which prove that diversification works out pretty well, even in years when the price of farm produce is greatly depressed, and we have an idea that most persons will agree with the Negro farmer that he has "come out pretty well."

Agriculture-1931

Louisiana

Improvement of

Mansfield, La. Enterprise
Thursday, January 29, 1931

Colored People of Good Hope Section Growing Food Stuff

Six pound turnips are decorating the Chamber of Commerce window this week. These were grown by Jim Henry White, of Frierson. They grew on hill land adjoining the piece where his five-acre corn patch was located. He has several tons like these.

Jim Henry is a member of the Good Hope Community Night Club, organized by Miss Mary Mims last year. This organization of colored people chose Jim Henry as their chairman and he has been giving them efficient leadership in their projects. Not only is Jim Henry a good leader but as the turnips will testify he is a good farmer. His other farming is in line with these products.

MARY LOUISE COLLINGS,
Home Demonstration Agent.

NEGROES PLAN AID FOR RACE BY INVESTING

$15,000 Corporation Organized to Help in Buying Small Farms

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 18.—Negro leaders assembling from all parts of the state in the Pythian temple here Monday to formulate plans to remedy the economic condition of members of their group, drafted a resolution memorializing President Hoover to appoint negroes to assist in the administration of drouth relief funds in the various states. A permanent organization was perfected to develop ways and means of improving the economic status of the negro race in Louisiana.

A committee is at work under the auspices of the body, forming plans for the organzation of a corporation with a capital of $15,000 which is to be used for the purpose of buying farm lands to divide into small tracts to sell negri families desiring to follow agricultural pursuits. Tenative plans were also discussed to establish industrial enterprise among negroes with a view of giving more employment to members of the group.

The meeting which was attended by negro leaders engaged in all lines of endeavor, was the outgrowth of a call issued in early January by Dr. J. H Lowery, B. V. Baranco, Scott A. Lewis Prof. J. S. Clark, Frank S. Young and Dr. A. W. Brazier.

Two representatives from Shreveport H. S. Davis and Albert White, attended the gathering and took part in the proceedings.

Wednesday, June 3, 1931

Negro Farmer Grows Huge Cabbages

A cabbage weighing seven pounds and having a width of 11 1-4 inches, and a depth of 7 3-4 inches was brought in to the Signal-Tribune office Monday morning by B. Jones, a negro farmer who lives in the Concord community. Jones was accompanied by H. M. Harris, president of the welfare association at Concord, which is sponsoring a self-help program for the negro farmers of that community.

The cabbage was planted on the 7th of February and was produced on a plot on which fifty or more cabbages equally as large as the one exhibited here were grown.

Agriculture - 1931

Mississippi.

Improvement of

FIGHT ORGANIZING NEGRO FARMERS

Miss. Bosses Try to Block Move

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 2.—White land owners and merchants in this state are greatly alarmed at a movement of Negro poor farmers to organize for cooperative marketing of their crops, buying of supplies, etc.

The Negro farmers have held several meetings in an effort to organize resistance to the super-exploitation of finance capital and the rich landowners which for decades has kept them in actual slavery, robbing them right and left, forcing them to give up the best part of their crops to the landowners, to sell the balance at prices dictated by the landowners, and to buy their supplies either from plantation stores or from white merchants in league with the landowners.

Already, the Negro poor farmers have had several good results from their efforts to organize, although handicapped by the fact that the white farmer organizations in this section under the control of the reformists, discriminate against Negro farmers, barring them from membership in their organizations. In this way the reformists support the efforts of the rich landowners and finance capital to prevent the organization of the Negro farmers in farmers' league, cooperatives, etc.

Only the United Farmers' League, an organization affiliated with the Farmers International, supports the struggles of the Negro poor farmers and tries to organize Negro and white poor farmers together, calling upon the farmers of both races to fight against the oppression of finance capital. In its program, the United Farmers League denounces the race prejudice spread and fostered by the bosses and declares:

". . . the unity of the poor against the rich, on the basis of social, economic and political equality of the Negroes, and their right to govern themselves where they are a majority, is the only hope for either white or Negro poor farmers. Such unity between Negro and white farmers was obtained in the Tenants Strike in Alabama a few years ago. Those who oppose it are enemies of the poor farmers."

PRAISE NEGRO FARMERS OF OKTIBBEHA COUNTY

STARKVILLE—A joint meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, and the Oktibbeha Jersey Cattle club was held at the new dairy judging pavilion with a large attendance present.

Negro farmers judged to have the best winter feed and cover crops were Pete Sudduth, first, William Ellis, second and Tom Ham, third. E. W. Hayes, instructor in the Oktibbeha County Agricultural school for colored was commended for carrying on good work among the colored farmers.

Agriculture - 1931

North Carolina

Improvement of

NEGRO RAISES $65,000 CROP

9-18-31

N. C. Farmer, Known As The "Round Bean King" Supplies The Atlantic Pacific Company

St. Louis Mo

WHITEVILLE, N. C., Sept. 17 — (CNS) While many of the single crop farmers of the South are experimenting difficulty because of the sick condition in which their principal crop, cotton, finds itself, one Negro farmer, William G. Spaulding, is making agricultural history and feeling none of the ill effects of the present depression. Known in this section as the "Round Bean King", Mr. Spaulding realized over $65,000 in the sale of farm produce from his farm last year.

Began On Small Scale

He began business four years ago in a small way selling his vegetables to the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, concentrating on the Southern Division with headquarters at Charlotte. Today he is an accredited representative of the company. He is the proud possessor of five trucks, and has under cultivation over 65 acres of snap beans. He is known to have the largest market for fancy vegetables in this district. Over 15 acres of turnips plus additional fields of Savy Cabbages. At the present time he is experimenting with Italian Sprouting Broccoli, a comparatively new field.

"Right now," says Mr. Spaulding, "I am curing over 10,000 bushels of sweet potatoes in several tobacco barns for the fall market, these will be sold to the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. Not to mention my having a sufficient supply of Collards to be worth my while." Modestly he explained his many attempts to cooperate with the farmers in Columbus County. "I had always had the ambition to organize the farmers of this district. I knew that if we could get together, a profitable business could be built right here in this locality. I could not get them to see my point of view, therefore, I borrowed some money and started in on my own."

Agriculture - 1931

North Carolina

Improvement of.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

APR 30 1931

THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

Farm Tenancy And How To Create Desire For Farm Ownership.

To the Editor of The Observer:

Succeed in diverting some of the philanthropy of the friendly Southerners and Northerners from Negro colleges, if not obtainable otherwise, to negro agriculturalists. Then buy some of the large areas of fertile farm lands that are being sold for taxes and farm loan mortgages. Divide into small 30 acre farms. Equip them with dwellings, barns, stables, mules and farm implements. Colonize with thrifty industrious farmers. Charge the respective farmers an annual rental that would in the course of a stipulated term of years equal the cost of the equipment. Then turn over to them fee simple deeds of ownership.

In the meantime have the investment trustees employ a competent white or colored supervisor to see that the settlers adopt business farm methods in conducting their farm operations. The first year have the trustees furnish the farmers just enough cash to buy their feed stuff for man and mule; said money to be paid back the first year out of the products of the farm.

By this method the tenant farmer would be emancipated from the bondage of time prices; and under these new and reversed conditions the disheartened tenant farmer of the past would pick up new courage and increased thrift, because he would see the goal of independent farm ownership ahead. Any other process to obtain farm ownership would be too slow and therefore disheartening.

The negro tenant who knows how to farm is "broke" on account of the past three years' crop-failure, hence it would be impossible for him to buy a farm for cash nor on time, even if no initial payment would be required.

The foregoing roseate plan of immediate farm ownership would not only create desire on part of the present tenant farmer, but would induce the high school boy to return to the farm.

Negro farm ownership was the prophesy of the race's greatest leader, Booker T. Washington, and he, with the eye of an eagle, saw this present economical distress that his people are undergoing now. He recognized that the negro mass of the South is indigenous to the farm and therefore their well being would depend on their developed ability to make two bales of cotton grow where once only one half bale grew. He submitted that a full head and an empty pocket book would not build a happy and prosperous community; therefore he stressed common school, industrial and agricultural education for the masses; and to get away from these principles would mean dismal failure for the race.

The race's economic base cannot nor will not support a superstructure of college and professional groups and the continuance of this course will mean education without occupation, and eventually economic captivity; therefore we should greet the slogan "back to the farm" delivered by Prof. B. F. Hubert of the Georgia State College. He submits that such a movement is the real solution of the economic problem of the negro in America.

Now that we are back on the farm, let us adopt the advice of North Carolina's great Governor Gardner, Live At Home, and plus Dr. Washington's advice "Whenever you come back to town bring something to sell, eggs, chickens, potatoes, pumpkin, wood" bring something to sell.

W. P. EVANS

Laurinburg, April 27.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

MAY 5 - 1931

Solving the Negro Farm Problem.

To the Editor of The Observer:

I was very much interested in The Forum contribution "The Negro Problem," by W. P. Evans of Laurinburg. The principle set out in his argument is fine. Not only so, but something on that order, is positively the only hope for the south.

There has been practiced in this section of the country, since the Civil war, a policy of land grabbing by that element of society who thought to recoup their losses in the emancipation of the negro, by conducting a system of business that would put them in complete ownership and control of the lands of the south, and thus place both the poor whites and also the negroes in a state of industrial slavery which would be more profitable to themselves than had been the chattle slavery just abolished.

This program has been in course of development, and has served its day, up to this present time, but is now beginning to show its ugly side.

While the policy has been very nearly carried to fruition, the fruit is not pleasant, it's beginning to have a crab-apple taste, and is not only not profitable at this stage, it is actually ruinous, and without a remedy for its devastating effects; not only the country in general is ruined, but those individuals whom it appeared would benefit by the process are ruined also.

High taxes, and extravagant government has found this system of agriculture has exhausted the lands, and that they are now unable to support this program of progress we have put on, and at the same time support the labor necessary to cultivate them. The result is, every man who has more land than he can use himself and has to depend on tenants to handle it for him, while he finances the operation, is losing money in nine cases out of ten.

The MacLean bill for school support, was intended to relieve this class of losing landlords, by reducing the tax on lands, and putting it on over-alls and fat-back, so the tenant would have to pay it when he bought his little supplies. It seems, however, this attempt is not going to succeed. Thanks to the friends of humanity.

The Evans suggestion of re-instating the people on the lands—under terms whereby they may hope to become owners of small farms well tilled and cared for, is the real and only remedy for our present trouble. The farmer has collapsed, fallen under the weight that has been heaped upon him. If he could not remain upright, while he was up, he certainly cannot rise with all the weight that threw him still on. Maybe it will require an old-fashioned "Jubilee" to set us straight.

I believe a great many large land owners would welcome such. The only objectionable trend in the Evans letter seems to be his assumption that the negro tenant is the only one to be looked after in this matter.

I wish to enter a protest here, the white owner of a small farm having had it confiscated by unjust and unreasonable taxation, should have some "restitution" also. Lets not take the white man's home and give it to cuffy, especially if it was the only little home he had

Waxhaw, April 30. S. S. DUNLOP.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

APR 30 1931

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W. P. EVANS

Laurinburg, April 27.

Red Springs, N. C. Citizen
Thursday, June 11, 1931

NEGROES SOLVING RELIEF PROBLEM

Cooperative Cannery At Wilmington Is Given Work To Many and Aiding Needy As Well As The Farmer Owning the Land.

RALEIGH, June 10.—The "Live-at-Home" campaign is being pushed by workers of both the white and negro races in North Carolina, according to information coming to the Governor's Council office here in Raleigh.

An outstanding example of the effective work being done by negro leaders among needy and unemployed of their own race, in this effort to get the people of the state to can and preserve more fruits and vegetables this summer, is found in New Hanover County. Carrie G. Hargrave, of the Public Welfare Commission of the county of New Hanover and the City of Wilmington, is doing wonders with her own race. She has done two things: given them employment and at the same time stressed the canning and preserving of vegetables and fruits. Negroes, who had to depend last winter on relief organizations and charity, will have their own food in the Wilmington area this coming fall and winter. The plan, being pushed in New Hanover, is unique and it would be well for welfare and other workers among all races in the state, to copy the Wilmington idea.

It is simple but effective. In the first place, workers are placed in fields and put to work, picking vegetables for the owners of the fields. The picking completed, these same negroes take the vegetables to a cannery, set up for the purpose in Wilmington. There the vegetables are canned. The owner of the field gets his vegetables picked and canned at no monetary expense, as pay to the workers is made in cans of vegetables, seven cans or more to each active worker who puts in one day on the project. Both parties are benefitted materially; and the negro worker has obtained foods which can be saved until needed this winter.

Many farmers and truck growers are cooperating with the welfare commission in this project. In many instances, however, farmers have donated the entire production of fields of vegetables, so that the relief workers may get their share of the cans put up; and the share, which would go to the owner of the field of vegetables, goes to the relief organization, to be used later on, as officials of that commission in Wilmington see fit. These negroes, who do this work, have two incentives, to help themselves and to prepare the way to be of aid to others later in the year.

There are numerous cases, where farmers have donated their fields to the gathering of vegetables, after only one or two pickings of vegetables which produuce a continuous crop over a period of weeks. Regardless of the exact plan, the negroes are being given a chance to work out their own salvation through toil and a division of the products of their labor. The cans are supplied by the relief organization.

The board of education has cooperated nicely through the loan of a building and a large range. Mrs Herbert Bluenthal donated new equipment for the cannery work additional to the equipment given last year to the welfare commission by the county commissioners. The work is carried on with a new 100 quart canner, and a pressure cooker which is capable of handling 16 quarts at a time. Hand sealers and large containers for the vegetables have been obtained from various sources and 2000 cans have been given the commission by the county. George Trash, member of the county board of commissioners, has shown unusual interest through the donation of a large field of string beans.

Friends in Wilmington have offered prizes in money to the housewife saving the largest and best amount of canned vegetables and fruits during this summer.

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The method followed in this cooperative project differs greatly from the usual community plan. Housewives and their children meet at a designated point, work for several hours picking vegetables, take these vegetables to the cannery, where the produce is put up under supervision. Then these workers are paid their seven cans or more per day. In this way many groups will find work during the summer and early fall, and each group of the many organized will be given a chance to do some work. Further, all workers are being taught how to use their kettles and do their own canning at home.

Carrie Hargrave is teaching the members of her race how to conserve their garden produce and her attempt, according to information received from Wilmington, is bringing real results

Colored People Act Now for This Winter

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An outstanding example of the effective work being done by negro leaders among needy and unemployed members of their own race, in this effort to get the people of the state to can and preserve more fruit and vegetables this summer, is found in New Hanover County. Carrie G. Hargrave, of the Public Welfare Commission of the county of New Hanover and the city of Wilmington is doing wonders with her own race. She has done two things: given them employment and at the same time stressed the canning and preserving of vegetabes and fruits. Negroes, who had to depend last winter on relief organizations and charity, will have their own food in the Wilmington area this coming fall and winter. The plan, being pushed in New Manover, is unique, and it would be well for welfare workers among all races in the state, to copy the Wilmington idea.

It is simple but effective. In the first place workers are placed in fields and put to work, picking vegetables for the owners of the fields. The picking completed, these same negroes take the vegetables to a cannery, set up for the purpose in Wilmington. There the vegetables are canned. The owner of the field gets his vegetables picked and canned at no monetary expense, as pay to the workers is made in cans of vegetables, seven cans or more to each active worker who puts in one day on the project. Both parties are benefitted materially; and the negro worker has obtained foods which can be saved until needed this winter.

Many farmers and truck growers are cooperating with the welfare commission in this project. In many instances, however, farmers have donated the entire production of fields of vegetables, so that the relief workers may get their share of the cans put up; and the share, which would go to the owner of the field of vegetables goes to the relief organization to be used later on, as officials of that commission in Wilmington see fit. These negroes, who do this work, have two incentives, to help themselves and to prepare the way to be of aid to others later in the year.

There are numerous cases, where farmers have donated their fields to the gathering of vegetables,, after only one or two pickings of vegetables, which produce a continous crop over a period of weeks. Regardless of the exact plan, the negroes are being given a chance to work out their own salvation through toil and a division of the products of their labor. The cans are supplied by the relief organization.

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Agriculture-1931

North Carolina

Improvement of

Benson, N. C. Review
Thursday, June 11, 1931

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Lexington Dispatch
May 1931

Negro Woman Worker Helps People to Save

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Agriculture-1931
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Greensboro, N. C. News
Monday, January 5, 1931

BIG STRIDES MADE IN NEGRO FARM TRAINING

State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture Cites Facts of Growth.

BOYS COLLECT PROFITS

By S. B. SIMMONS,
Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture For Negroes in North Carolina.

Vocational education in agriculture for negroes was started in North Carolina in the fall of 1918. There were nine departments the first year with an enrollment of 163 pupils. There has been a gradual growth in the number of departments and pupils up to the present date. During the year 1929-30, there were 27 departments with a total enrollment of 1,527. The first year of the work there were 18 pupils per teacher, all of whom were in grades from three to eight. The past fiscal year there were 56.5 pupils per teacher. More than 50 per cent of those enrolled came from accredited high schools. The departments of vocational agriculture and the number of individuals receiving such instruction have more than trebled during the past 12 years. Even though the work has expanded considerably since it was introduced. the present growth could not be compared with what it would be if departments were placed in the other communities where needed.

One of the many desirable features of the vocational work is that each person taking the course under the supervision of the agricultural teacher provides and plans his laboratory work, generally on the home farm. Such laboratory work is commonly called a home project. There are a number of reasons why these projects appeal to the boy. The one which is most far reaching is that the project or laboratory work in this course provides means for developing the economic interest. From the very beginning of the work large incomes have been made on the projects.

The first year, 1918-19, projects were conducted by 103 boys who made a net profit of $6,713.79 or an average individual profit amounting to $65.18. In 1928-29 there were completed 1158 projects or 93.9 per cent of those starting the course completed their projects for that year, while only 63.2 per cent completed their projects the first year 1918-19. The 1,158 students just referred to made a total project income amounting to $85,104.10, an average individual net income of $73.39. The average individual gain is more conspicuous when one realizes that the prices received were, cotton 35.2 cents per pound, corn $1.85 per bushel and tobacco 53.6 cents per pound in 1919 as compared with prices in 1919 which were 18.5 cents per pound for cotton, $1 per bushel for corn and tobacco 18.3 cents per pound.

Successful Projects.

A group of five boys and Prof. C. H Couch at the Alamance County Training school, Burlington, started growing sweet potato slips for the local market three years ago. The first year they produced 5,000 plants, the second year 9,400 plants and last year 15,000 slips. With the profits from the sale of slips and sweet potatoes grown in the individual projects they have built a log sweet potato storage house which will easily hold 1,000 bushels of potatoes. The house is used in storing their seed potatoes and surplus market potatoes which are held until prices reach the maximum point. The group's major goal for this year is to produce and sell 45,000 certified sweet potato slips One of the main features of this project is that the boys are learning the value of co-operation.

Aaron Barker, Dudley, tells the story of his project for the period from November 1, 1929 to November 1, 1930, a period of 360 days. "I fed and kept records on the home flock which consisted of 41 hens and 3 roosters. The average feed cost was 30 cents per day or a total of $108 During this time I sold 21 hens for $21 and collected 559 dozen eggs. I set 25 hens on 396 eggs and hatched 325 chicks. I sold 526 dozen eggs for $157.80 and 75 young chickens at 50 cents each for $37.50.

It required 30 minutes per day or a total of 172 hours at 15 cents per day or $25.80. Stock on hand is worth $160."

Charlotte Observer
Saturday, May 31, 1931

NEGRO FARMERS HEAR PROGRAM

"Live at Home" Campaign Explained to Mecklenburg Group.

About 200 negro farm men and women met in the county court room yesterday and heard Governor Gardner's "Live at Home" campaign discussed. The conference was preceded by a round table discussion of farm problems. From this it was deduced that negro farmers who owned a milk cow, raised their hogs, kept a good flock of chickens and had good gardens were in a strong position to maintain a livelihood through the winter and spring months until other food crops came in.

The general theme of the meeting yesterday was the production of more food and feed crops, thus reducing the necessity of depending altogether on cotton. The preserving of the surplus food crops, after they had been produced, was urged as a means of storing up food supplies.

The conference was arranged by I. D. L. Torrence and Wihlmena Laws, farm and demonstration agent, respectively, among their race in Mecklenburg. Speakers included J. W. Mitchell, district farm agent, Greensboro, and D. F. Lowe, district home agent, Greensboro.

Kope Elias, Mecklenburg farm demonstration agent, Barnette Garrison, member of the board of county commissioners, and Edward Crawford, poultry expert, also made brief talks.

Charlotte Observer
May 26, 1931

COLORED FARMERS ARE URGED TO RAISE FOOD AND FEED CROPS FIRST

Finance Will Take Care of Itself If This Is Done, They Are Told in County-Wide Meeting Held Here.

1931 FARM PLANS ARE DISCUSSED BY SPEAKERS

Colored farmers of Robeson county, meeting in a county-wide gathering in the court house here Thursday afternoon, were urged to grow their own food and feed crops this year and were told that if they did this that finance would take care of itself. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the farmers with the outlook in regard to cotton and tobacco and make suggestions for the future. The meeting was presided over by S. T. Brooks, colored farm agent, who introduced the speakers.

Outlook On Cash Crops.

C. R. Hudson, State agent, told something of the cotton and tobacco outlook for the coming year, pointing out that there is a great surplus of each and that the wise farmer will plant a much smaller acreage this time. The cotton surplus, he said, is about ten million bales, and the tobacco is about the same proportion. There is already enough cotton on hand to last the world another year if none were produced. Thousands and millions of pounds of tobacco are stored all over the country. The market is also flooded with peanuts, one of the other principal money crops. The farmers have overproduced on these things, and the law of supply and demand is largely governing the price. North Carolina last year, he said, bought $165,000,000 worth of corn, hay and pork at a price from 2 to 4 times as much as it costs to produce them. And yet farmers go ahead in a haphazard way. If they make some money, they are proud of it. If they don't, they are sorry. Mr. Hudson urged that the farmers grow more of the things they are short on and less of the things they have plenty of, especially cotton and tobacco. Farmers should have all available information about crop outlooks in planning their farm operations, and the government is supplying this information free of charge, he stated.

Success Formula

John W. Mitchell, colored, district farm agent, of Greensboro, in a ringing address filled with oratory, gave to the farmers a formula which if carried out will mean success in farm operations this year, he stated—F plus F plus F equals success in 1931. The first "F" is for food, and he urged that an ample supply be provided. The second is for feed. The speaker urged that there be 275 bushels of corn for the average family with 50 hens, a mule, a cow, a brood sow and 2 litters of pigs. There should be at least 4 1-2 tons of hay. The third "F" is for finance or money. When the other "F's" have been taken care of, this will take care of itself, he stated. Farmers can get along with less money when they have provided their food and feed.

Hopeful of Future.

The Greensboro man spoke hopefully of the future, expressing confidence that the country is going to come out of the financial depression all right. The great question is, though, what will be the plight of the farmers when they come out? Farmers are going to have another chance, and they should be up and doing something to better their condition while it is yet time.

Change of Attitude.

County Farm Agent O. O. Dukes said the farmers of Robeson county have been floundering around in their farm operations until they have reached the point where their minds are settled on one thing—make a living and then make money if you can. Good is coming already from the change in attitude and he expressed the opinion that another year would see conditions here much better. Those who have already started the work of growing their own feed and food crops first are going to have to be missionaries to the others, he stated. The time has come when the tenant farmer who does not have his own food and feed is finding it difficult to get a crop.

Permanent Pastures.

S. J. Kirby of the state extension service talked about permanent pastures. A pasture is fundamental to any sort of livestock program, he declared. If the farmers want livestock, they should get pastures first. Pastures furnish an abundance of feed cheap take some of the labor from feeding and will grow where other crops won't. Without pastures there can only be undersize, underweight, sorry livestock. The trouble has been that folks depended upon pasture land to produce pastures, and they planted no seed and did no cultivating. There are no high-class native pastures in this section. The speaker urged the farmers to make all the temporary pastures they could but told them that in the end they are going to have to depend upon permanent pastures for grazing. Get good seed and make good seedbeds, he urged.

Dazelle F. Lowe, colored, district home agent, talked on the budget, outlining what is necessary in the matter of foods to run the farm family for a year. A number of canned articles, some corn and meat, also some useful household articles made on the farm, were on display.

Four Essential Things.

Farm Agent Brooks said the cow, the hog, the hen and the garden are the 4 things that are going to help the farmers of Robeson county solve the farm problems. He asked that the suggestions of the speakers be put into practice.

Durham, N. C. Sun
Saturday, February 7, 1931

NEGRO FARMERS HOLD MEETING AT MUTUAL

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A meeting of Negro farmers of Durham county was held today in the North Carolina Mutual building at which time talks were delivered by several people regarding agriculture and the program of living at home.

Variety in crops is being stressed by T. A. Hamme, local Negro farm agent, for farmers of Durham county. Gardens for growing vegetables for home consumption is being urged as a part of every Negro farmer's program for the year.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
Wednesday, April 1, 1931

Gaston Negroes Are Modernizing Farms

Vocational Supervisor Reviews Progress In Stock And Farm Methods — School Is Leading.

(Greensboro News.)

Negro farmers of Gaston county and particularly in the community in which Lincoln Academy is located, are making splendid progress under the leadership of D. H. Robinson according to observation made by S. B. Simmons, supervisor of vocational educational agriculture in the negro schools. In the four years the work has been done in the community the number of pure bred hogs on the farms have grown from none to 110. Farmers who have not been able to purchase pure bred stock have improved the stock on their farms by breeding their sows to the fine male hog kept at the academy for that purpose.

Not only are the farmers raising more and better hogs but they are producing feed for the livestock. The farmers have joined the large group of farmers scattered over the state who this year are introducing improved practices on their farms which will help them produce three bushels of corn for every one produced last year. Already seed of known quality has been purchased and more than 100 acres of properly selected land have been put into excellent condition for this year's corn crop. The farmers are determined to ship at least one carload of hogs next fall and to be able to supply the county with a variety of seed corn well adapted to local farming conditions.

The work in poultry production is superior to that found in many communities. The club started last year in a very humble way. There were a few members who maintained their faith in the plans set up by the club and the teachers of agriculture. These members have replaced their scrub chickens with beautiful pure bred barred Plymouth Rock birds varying in number from 25 to 127 laying hens. These birds are properly housed and fed. Material for building the houses, feed and baby chicks are all purchased cooperately. This practice has caused quite a savings to the members. Even though the price paid for eggs has been way off, the farmers belonging to this club have been able to sell from 10 to 20 dozen eggs per week for hatching purposes at the price of 50 cents per dozen. Club members are getting 35 cents more per dozen for their eggs than the average farmer gets. One of the leading club members said to the supervisor:

"I always have money since I started following Prof. Robinson's suggestions on raising poultry."

Tenant farmers as well as land owners are receiving help in improving their farm flock. More than 20 pure bred male birds have been placed on such farms this year. All that is required is that the scrub roosters be sold and one of these scrub roosters exchanged for one pure bred rooster produced from trap-nested birds grown on the Lincoln Academy farm.

Raleigh, N. C. News & Observer
Friday, April 3, 1931

COLORED PEOPLE PUSH LIVE-AT-HOME DRIVE

Smithfield, April 2—Negro farmers in Johnston county are making much progress in the "'Live-at-Home" program, according to state district farm agent, J. W. Mitchell, who has just made a tour of the county. At Wilson's Mills he spoke to the 48 boys and girls of the 4-H club, whom he found planning garden projects for the season, one of them being a joint enterprise to be conducted in the back yard of the school premises, where they will cultivate one-fourth acre in snap beans in place of the usual crop of noxious weeds. Near Selma he found R. R. Revel planning to grow 25 acres of corn, instead of the 12 acres cultivated last year. In Clayton township he found Eli Morgan and Lewis Jones doubling their corn and hay acreage. Morgan had formerly produced 70 to 80 bales of cotton on 75 acres, but boll weevil had cut the yield to 20 or 25 bales, and he is to put his land in corn to feed hogs for market. Such instances Agent Mitchell reported as typical among the Negroes of Johnston.

Roxboro, N. C. Courier
Wednesday, April 29, 1931

Negro Farmers Like Live-At-Home Idea

Negro farmers in all parts of North Carolina are planning to support the live-at-home campaign this year and will farm to make a living first.

"While we have no accurate records of what the Negro farmers are doing except in the 18 counties where we have local agents employed, we do find a commendable attitude on the part of our colored citizens in these counties," says C. R. Hudson, farm demonstration worker at State College. "There have been 26,771 persons at the 322 meetings held to explain the live-at-hme movement. At each of these meetings information was given out as to the possible influence of any large acreage to cotton and tobacco on prices this year. It was also shown that crops needed for home supplies can be grown at home much cheaper than they can be purchased.

Especially have the colored farmers been asked to grow an adequate supply of corn, hay, poultry and pork and to have a good garden. Emphasis has been placed on the garden and the results are excellent. In several counties, a survey shows that about every colored farm family has started a garden. In some others, pastures have been planted and arrangements made to secure milk cows.

Mr. Hudson says in Alamance County, the Negro farmers have eggs, poultry and cream to sell after saving a good supply for home use. In Gates County, more corn, pigs and poultry will be rasied than ever before. In Harnett county, 20 Negro farmers have entered a home garden contest and 14, a corn contest.

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Troy,
Thursday, April 30, 1931

Negro Farmers Support Live-At-Home Work

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Cooleemee, N. C. Journal
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Thursday, ... 30, 1931

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"While we have no accurate records of what the Negro farmers are doing except in the 18 counties where we have local agents employed, we do find a commendable attitude on the part of our colored citizens in these counties," says C. R. Hudson, farm demonstration worker at State College. "There have been 26,771 persons at the 322 meetings held to explain the live-at-home movement. At each of these meetings information was given out as to the possible influence of any large acreage to cotton and tobacco on prices this year. It was also shown that crops needed for home supplies can be grown at home much cheaper than they can be purchased."

Especially have the colored farmers been asked to grow an adequate supply of corn, hay, poultry and pork and to have a good garden. Emphasis has been placed on the garden and the results are excellent. In several counties, a survey shows that about every colored farm family has started a garden. In some others, pastures have been planted and arrangements made to secure milk cows.

Mr. Hudson says in Alamance County, the Negro farmers have eggs poultry and cream to sell after saving a good supply for home use. In Gates County, more corn, pigs and poultry will be raised than ever before. In Harnett county, 20 Negro farmers have entered a home garden contest and 14, a corn contest. In Rowan and Iredell counties, a tremendous acreage has been planted to lespedeza and in Robeson County 32 demonstrations in improved corn have been planted.

Weldon ... Journal
Thursday, ... 30, 1931

NEGRO FARMERS TO SUPPORT GOV'S LIVE AT-HOME PROGRAM

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Waynesville ... Mountaineer
Thursday, ... 30, 1931

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Gastonia ...
Wednesday ... 1931

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Reidsville ... C. Review
Monday, ... 1931

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FARM POPULATION GAINING

News Leader

The Department of Agriculture does not venture to assert that the increase in the farm population in January, 1931, as compared with that of January, 1930, marks a new era in rural life. But the fact stands, whatever its significance, that for the first time in twenty years there has been a gain. There was an actual estimated increase during 1930 of 208,000. This may mark, as the report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics suggests, "only a temporary unemployment impulse without any significant momentum" behind it, but there is a suggestion of permanency in statistics which show that for a number of years the movement away from the farm has been slowing down year by year. 5-20-31

These figures do not tell us why fewer came to the cities and why more returned to the farm in 1930 in all regions of the United States except in the Mountain, the Pacific, and the West North Central areas. Is it that the telephone, the radio, the moving picture, the automobile, the improved roads and better rural schools have ended or lessened the isolation of farm houses—brought the city to the country? The mechanization of farm industry has enabled fewer laborers to produce more and has driven many to the city in search of other employment. On the other hand, it is probable that mechanizing science will also draw back to the farms as dwelling places an increasing number of men and women. Despite the advances of large-scale farming, it is believed by the best authorities that the family-sized farm will survive to grow what is even more valuable to the nation than its produce. —N. Y. Times.

Negro Farmers Plan To Live At Home

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South Carolina

Agriculture - 1931
Improvement of

Sumter, S. C. Herald
Thursday, January 22, 1931

ACTIVITIES IN VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

The State Department of Education has maintained a Division of Agricultural Education for 12 years. During this time the program has steadily developed until today we have one or more agricultural teachers in every county in the State. One hundred forty-two white teachers and 75 Negro teachers are teaching agriculture reaching 155 white high schools and 76 Negro schools.

The agricultural teacher has had specific training for his particular job and is a specialist. Certain definite professional requirements must be met by every man who teaches agriculture. The majority of our white teachers are trained at Clemson College.

For the fiscal year 1928-29, 10,382 men and boys were enrolled in vocational classes. 5,523 of this number were adult farmers who attended evening classes held by the agricultural teachers. Experimental Station data and local experienes were the chief sources of teaching material. As a result of this work in 1928-29 these 5,523 farmers improved farm practices that netted them a total of $619,223.85 (which is much more than the State and Federal money required to support the entire program in vocational agriculture). In addition to these financial results there is a potential value to this training.

It might be said there that the money required to carry on this work in the State is a little more than one-fourth of the increased earnings of the people enrolled in the classes.

For the year 1928-29 we have 12,695 students enrolled as compared with 10,384 for 1928-29.

The 5,523 boys enrolled in the various types of classes in 1928-29 made a total labor income of $274,-22.24 as a result of their own practice work carried on in connection with the class work in school. Even greater than this is the potential value of the training that can not be measured in dollars and cents, but will be found in real value in the future when these boys become farmers.

While teaching these boys to produce they are taught marketing, thrift and cooperation. A large percentage of the boys in our classes have developed savings accounts and other forms of investment.

During the last two years the demand for agricultural teachers and departments has been greater than the available funds would supply. A number of applications have been turned down each year due to lack of State and Federal funds. This period of depression and farm failures has been a factor in causing school officials and the public to realize more than ever before the great need for training our future farmers and for helping the present farmer increase his earning capacity.

South Carolina, according to the Federal Board rating, for the past five or six years has ranked at the top among the Southern States in her program in vocational agriculture. This is in spite of the fact that the average salary of agricultural teachers in South Carolina is less than that of any other State in the Union.

Organization, marketing and co-operation are given major attention in our program. A State organizational known as Future Palmetto Farmers has been formed and at present has an active membership of approximately 3,000 boys. One hundred twenty-five schools have organized local chapters of Future Palmetto Farmers and have received their charters. This State organization is affiliated with the national organization known and chartered as Future Farmers of America.

South Carolina was one of the first six States to receive her national charter. For the past three years we have sent delegates to the national meeting in Kansas City.

The purposes of this organization are: (1) To promote vocational agriculture in the high schools; (2) to create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations; (3) to create and nurture a love for country life; (4) to provide recreational and educational entertainment for future farmers; (5) to promote thrift by establishing savings accounts, and investments in agricultural enterprises; (6) to afford a medium of cooperative buying and selling; (7) to establish the confidence of the farm boy in himself and his work; (8) to promote scholarship in all school subjects; and (9) to develop local leadership.

The following are a few of the State-wide accomplishments of our organization for this year: (1) A State-wide crop and livestock judging contest: (2) sent a dairy judging team to St. Louis and a livestock team to Kansas City; (3) sent a representative to the National Future Farmers of America Public Speaking Contest; (4) conducted a State Fair School for Vocational Boys; (5) carried on a State-wide cotton and corn contest; (6) and a State-wide Future Palmetto Farmer Chapter Contest fostered by the co-ops.

A State Camp for Future Palmetto Farmers has been established in Oconee county on fifty acres of beautiful mountain land, which was donated by the three Rotary clubs of this county. Boys from every section of the State attended this camp last year.

There is an increasing demand for the methods of teaching used by agricultural teachers. Farmers and farm boys respond well to the use of experimental data and the practices of the best farmers as a basis for teaching. This plan gives the pupils confidence in applying the teaching to ther real farm problems on the home farm.

Sumter county's first definite move to incorporate this work in her school system occurred in September, 1929, when a full-time teacher of vocational agriculture was elected to the faculty of Hillcrest High school at Dalzell. Since the above date, a conservative program has moved consistently forward with a gradually increasing enrollment, now reaching the total of approximately 70, including boys and adult farmers. A summary of the work for its first year, 1929-30, which will appear in these columns as soon as they are completed, will bear out the statement that vocational agriculture at Hillcrest is carrying its part of the State-wide program as outlined above.

F. MARION DWIGHT, JR.
Instructor of Vocational Agriculture

Greenville, S. C. News
Wednesday, February 18, 1931

Negro Farm Class Makes Big Profit

SIMPSONVILLE, Feb. 17.—Agricultural projects at Simpsonville colored school the past year has been successful, according to the teacher of agriculture, Eugene Rivers.

Nine boys completed their projects. On 23 acres of land they produced 16 bales of cotton, one acre, 50 bushels of corn, 13 hens, and 125 dozens eggs, one-half acre, 15 bushels peanuts and one hog weighing 585 pounds. The total net profit for nine boys was nearly $400.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
Thursday, January 29, 1931

Thousand Dollars In Cash Prizes Offered In Contest

Clemson College.—Prizes amounting to $1,000 will be offered for the fourth demonstration garden contest to be conducted in South Carolina during 1931, announced A. E. Schilletter, extension horticulturist. This contest will be under the auspices of the extension workers of Clemson and Winthrop colleges. Previous contests have proved of great value in stimulating home gardening, Mr. Schilletter says.

To give every gardener a chance at the prizes, the following classse are provided:

Class 1, home gardens (may sell up to $100 and without being put in class 2.)

Class 2, those who sell between $100 and $400.

Class 3. Market gardeners who sell over $400 worth.

Class 4. Tenant farmers only.

Class 5. Negro farmers only.

First, second and third prizes of $100, $50, and $25 will be awarded in classes one, two and three; $50, $25, and $15 in classes four and five; and smaller prizes of cash, seed, or supplies in each class.

The contest has been made possible through the cooperation of The State, Columbia; The Herald, Spartanburg; N. V. Potasa Export My., The Barrett Co., and Hastings Seed Co., Atlanta, Woodruff Seed Co., Milford, Conn.; Gell Brothers Seed Co., Portland, Oregon; O. N. Simon and Son, and Mitchell's Seed House, Philadelphia; B. B. Kerland Seed Co., and others.

The followng points will be taken into consideration in awarding the prizes in the contest: First, consecutive plantings throughout the season that will keep up a ready supply of fresh vegetables; second, vegetbales served in sufficient quantities to take care of the nutritional requirements of the family; and, third, sufficient amounts canned for wintre use. Special credit will be given for fall and winter gardens. The garden should show that the contestant is using the proper methods of controlling diseases and insects, and has properly fertilized his plot.

Thursday, June 11, 1931

MORE NEGRO FARMERS TO OWN LIVESTOCK

Orangeburg, June 8.—Following the lead of the Extension Service many Negro farmers are becoming more livestock minded, according to H. E. Daniels, assistant district agent of Negro work, who gives reports from two counties as illustrating this tendency.

In Bamberg county, J. D Marshall, local agent, reports "Interest is growing in the production of hogs in the county W. H. Kearse shipped eight hogs that netted him $135.75 with which he bought fertilizer to plant his crop. The acre corn will be materially increased, looking forward to the raising of livestock for home consumption and for market Eight bushels of improved seed corn was distributed to 12 farmers. Five of the five acre corn contestants planted improved seed."

L. V. Walker, local agent in Florence county, says: "Eleven brood sows have been placed in the county this year. Eight of them have farrowed 61 pigs, which are being fed for market. This work in livestock is following the agents' program growng corn in the five corn contest."

Abbeville, S. C. Press and Banner
Thursday, June 18, 1931

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CHARLESTON, S. C
NEWS

SEP 20 1931

For White or Black

At Sardinia, in Clarendon county, lives Silas Walker, who "entered a litter of twelve pigs in the ton litter state contest. They weighed, September 9, 2,418 pounds at six months old." The corn fed into them was worth sixty cents a bushel and Silas Wilson sold them at six cents a pound, that is, he sold his corn at 84.5 cents a bushel. He is a two horse farmer and has been able to meet all his obligations this year. He paid his fertilizer bill in the spring, or nearly paid it, from the sale of hogs. He plants six acres of tobacco, which "will yield him a hundred dollars an acre plus, and six acres of cotton and will make six bales." His eighteen acres of corn will "produce thirty bushels to the acre at least," and his three acres of oats will be followed with pea vine hay. He is busy now with his fall garden, he has a "year-round garden," and this year has sold $75 worth of poultry and eggs. Two cows furnish him and his family of nine with milk and butter. "Above all, Silas is continually seeking information. He is a constant visitor to the office of County Agent F. M. Rast," who tells the story.

Silas Walker is a negro farmer. South Carolina is a goodly land for the right kind of farmers, white or black.

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Improvement of.

South Carolina

Abbeville, S. C. Press and Banner
Thursday, January 1, 1931

Agricultural Dept. Attracting Colored Farmers At Falls

Calhoun Falls, Dec. 29.—The colored school of Calhoun Falls has had an agriculture department since July 1, 1929, and is now in its second year's work in this special department. Since this work for the colored people here was rather novel, it attracted quite a bit of interest and made it possible to line up an interested class of All-Day students and a large evening class. The people have supported me in this undertaking splendidly, it being the realization of a long-felt need Consequently many of the colored farmers are constantly increasing their yields and are improving the quality of the products produced.

The major portion of the interest and work has centered around the following projects: corn, cotton, gardening, hogs, potatoes, peas, peanuts, fruit trees and stock. Notable strides in improvement is now in evidence.

Now there are in the All-Day class seven who are carrying projects, but some of them are carrying two or more projects. The members of these classes also bought 110 fruit trees, pruned a number of small orchards in the community, and assisted in beautifying the school grounds. These are only a few of the things they did.

In the Evening class there are fifteen carrying a supervised practice work. Their projects are cotton and corn, of these a few have been influenced to carry on home-mixing of fertilizer thus saving themselves several dollars in this respect.

Oscar Ellison,
Agriculture Teacher.

Thursday, January 22, 1931

NEGRO FARMER MAKES PROGRESS

Supervisor Daniels Describes Growth Of "Live At Home Idea"

"It is encouraging to note the large number of Negro farmers who have profited by the services and the advice of the local Negro farm agent, L. V. Walker, and have placed themselves on a sound basis with respect to food and feed stuff for 1931," said H. E. Daniels, supervising agent, who has been in this county for several days discussing the 1931 farm program with Negro farmers.

"A very successful meeting has been held in the Timmonsville community in which agent Walker has conducted a live at home program Two other meetings are to be held, one at Mt. Zion School, Mars Bluff and the other at Salem School, Cbussen. At these meetings the live at home program will continue to be discussed."

Other meetings will be held before H. E. Daniels, state supervisor, leaves this district. Supervisor Daniels spoke of several marked instances of where colored farmers had made fine records. Among them he listed the following: "Washington Jordan, Jr., Timmonsville, Route 4, one of the 11 5-acre corn contestants in 1930, harvested 400 bushels of corn on a five acre demonstration. Jordan says he can sell 200 bushels and have remaining more than he needs for 1931.

"O. G. Graham, Route 4, on a 1-acre demonstration of wheat harvested 31 bushels, making enough floor to take care of his family during this year.

Nathan Benjamin, Timmonsville, S. C., Route 4, a sweet potato contestant gathered 150 bushels of No. 1 sweet potatoes on his acre demonstration. He has over and above his home needs 100 bushels to sell. Other Negro farmers of the county are making similar food and feed productions."

Johnston, S. C., Herald
Friday, January 23, 1931

SUMMARY VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORK IN SOUTH CAR.

The State Department of Education has maintained a Division of Agricultural Education for 12 years. During this time the program has steadily developed until today we have one or more agricultural teachers in every county in the State. 142 white teachers and 76 negro teachers are teaching agriculture, reaching 155 white high schools and 76 negro schools.

The agricultural teacher has had specific training for his particular job and is a specialist. Certain definite professional requirements must be met by every man who teaches agriculture. The majority of our white teachers are trained at Clemson College.

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It might be said there that the money required to carry on this work in the State is a little more than one-fourth of the increased earnings of the people enrolled in tre classes.

For the year 1929-30 we have 12,695 students enrolled as compared with 10,384 for 1928-29.

The 5,523 boys enrolled in the various types of classes in 1928-29 made a total labor income of $274,221.24 as a result of their farm practice work carried on in connection with the class work in school. Even greater than this is the potential value of the training that can not be measured in dollars and cents, but will be found in real value in the future when these boys become farmers.

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Williston, S. C. Way
Thursday, January 22, 1931

Summary of Vocational Agricultural Work In South Carolina

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The 5,523 boys enrolled in the various types of classes in 1928-29 made a total labor income of $274,221.24 as a result of their farm practice work carried on in connection with the class work in school. Even greater than this is the potential value of the training that cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but will be found in real value in the future when these boys become farmers.

While teaching these boys to produce they are taught marketing, thrift and cooperation. A large percentage of the boys in our classes have developed saving accounts and other forms of investment.

During the last two years the demand for agricultural teachers and departments has been greater than the available funds would supply. A number of applications have been turned down each year due to lack of State and Federal funds. This period of depression and farm failures has been a factor in causing school officials and the public to realize more than ever before the great need for training our future farmers and for helping the present farmer increase his earning capacity.

South Carolina, according to the Federal Board rating, for the past 5 or 6 years has ranked at the top among the Southern States in her program in vocational agriculture. This is in spite of the fact that the average salar of agricultural teachers in South Carolina is less than that of any other state in the Union.

Organization, marketing and cooperating are given major attention in our program. A State organization known as Future Palmetto Farmers has been formed and at present has an active membership of approximately 3,000 boys. 125 schools have organized local chapters of Future Palmetto Farmers and have received their charters. This state organization is affiiliated with the national organization known and chartered as Future Farmers of America.

South Carolina was one of the first 6 states to receive her national charter. For the past 3 years we have sent delegates to the national meeting in Kansas City.

The purposes of this organization are: 1() To promote vocational agriculture in the high schools; (2) to create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations; (3) to create and mature a love for countr life; (4) to provide recreational and educational entertainment for future farmers; (5) to promote thrifty by establishing saving accounts, and investments in agricultural enterprises; (6) to afford a medium of cooperative buying and selling; (7) to establish the confidence of the farm inboy in himself and his work; (8) to promote scholarship in all school subjects; and (9) to develop local leadership.

The following are a few of the State-wide accomplishments of our organization for this year: (1) a state-wide crop and livestock judging contest; (2) sent a dairy judging team to St. Louis and a livestock team to Kansas City; (3) sent a representative to the National Future Farmer of America Public Speaking Contest; (4) conducted a State Fair School for Vocational Boys; (5) carried on a State-wide cotton and corn contest; (6) and a State-wide Future Palmetto Farmer Chapter Contest fosteerd by the co-ops.

A State Camp for Future Palmetto Farmers has been established in Oconee County on 50 acres of beautiful mountain land, which was donated by the three Rotary Clubs of this county. Boys from every section of the State attended this camp last year.

There is an increasing demand for the methods of teaching used by agricultural teachers. Farmers and farm boys respond well to the use of experimental data and the practices of the bast farmers as a basis for teaching. This plan gives the pupils confidence in pplying the teaching to their real farm problems on home farm.

Newberry, S. C. Herald & News
Friday, January 23, 1931

PRIZES OFFERED APT GARDENERS

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BE DIVIDED

Five Classes Listed; Awards of $100, $50 and $25 In First Three Divisions.

One thousand dollars ($1000) will be given in prizes to gardeners and farmers over the state who wish to try their luck at growing vegetables.

It is hoped that this contest will encourage the planting of year-round gardens and a much wider use of vegetables in the home.

The contest has been made possible through the cooperation of The Columbia State, The Spartanburg Herald, Woodruff Seed company, Milford, Conn.; N. V. Potash Export My., Atlanta, Ga.; Hastings Seed Co., Atlanta [illegible] The Barrett Co., Atlanta, Ga.; I. N. Simon & Son, Philadelphia, Pa.; Michells Seed House, Philadelphia, Pa; Gill Bros. Seed Co., Montaville Station, Portland, Oregon; and others.

This contest is being conducted under the auspices of Winthrop and Clemson college and is in charge of A. E. Schilleter, extension horticulturist, and Mrs. Dora Dee Walker, production specialist.

Rules for Garden Contest.

Size of Plot: Any size plot will be admitted. However, the gardener who makes the best use of his plot will be given first consideration.

Entries: Each contestant will keep the same record and will be classified as follows:

Classes: To give every gardener a chance at the prizes, the following classes are provided:

Class 1, Home gardener. (May sell up to $100 without being put in Class 2.)

Class 2—Those who sell between $100 and $400 worth.

Class 3—Market gardeners who sell over $400 worth.

Class 4—Tenant farmers only.

Class 5—Negro farmers only.

First, second, and third prizes of $100, $50 and $25 will be awarded in classes one ,two, and three; $50, $25 and $15 in classes four and five; and smaller prizes of cash, seed, or supplies in each class.

Contestants eligible for classes 4 and 5 will be allowed to compete in all classes, but should they win first or second prize in one of the first three classes they will automatically become ineligible for prizes in classes 4 and 5. The prizes will then be awarded to the next highest competitor.

Special credit will be given for fall and winter gardens.

Keeping Record: Each contestant in making application for entry in this contest agrees to furnish the information asked for in the simple monthly contest record book. This information is expected to be furnished whether the contestant is successful in winning a prize or not.

Awarding Prizes: In awarding the prizes in the garden contest the following points will be taken into consideration. First, the record which should show consecutive plantings throughout the season in order to keep up a ready supply of fresh vegetables. It should also show that the vegetables grown are served in sufficient quantities to take care of the nutrition requirements of the family, and that sufficient amounts are canned for winter use.

The garden should show that the contestant is using the proper methods of controlling diseases and insects and has properly fertilized and cultivated his plot. As far as possible, the gardeners will be visited and records checked to see what type of garden they have.

PIGS MAKE FINE RECORDS

Clarendon Negro Farmers Cash in on Porkers

Manning, June 1. "Sam Williams, a Negro farmer of Clarendon county, this spring completed a remarkable demonstration with hogs," according to William Thompson, local farm agent. "Williams started with a litter of 10 pigs which he fed and managed according to extension methods, producing a total of 2,035 pounds of pork in 157 days. He sold these at 9.5 cents per pound, or a total of $193.32. The litter was an ordinary mixed breed, but his record stands out prominently among state records. Not only did Williams succeed, but he surpassed the ton litter record made by the county last year. Because of his success with the litter he was able to pay his fertilizer bill.

"Williams was not the only Negro in Clarendon county to accomplish something with hogs last year," Thompson adds. "A. C. Johnson made a litter of pigs weigh 1,880 pounds within 180 days earning him a check for $186.02. Silas Walker, with a litter of nine pigs fed out 1770 pounds of pork within 180 days, bringing him 61"

Agriculture - 1931

Texas

Improvement of

STERLING SIGNS TEXAS COTTON REDUCTION LAW

Attitude Of Other Southern States Remains In Doubt; Unity Of Action Necessary

MANY GOVERNORS SEEK SENTIMENT OF FARMERS

AUSTIN, TEXAS, Sept. 12—(AP)—Texas led the way for the South tonight in cotton curtailment with a new acreage reduction law designed to bring farmers relief from over production and low prices.

Gov. Ross S. Sterling signed the measure restricting cotton planting in 1932 and 1933 to 30 per cent of the Texas land now in cultivation and forbidding the planting of cotton thereafter on the same land in successive years.

Considering the 51 or 52 per cent of the cultivated area in Texas has planted in cotton this year, advocates of the measure predicted it would reduce cotton planting in 1932 fifty per cent. Enforcement of the law would be left to county and district attorneys assisted by prosecutors for the state commissioner of agriculture.

They are empowered to file injunction suits against farmers failing to abide by its terms, the penalty being from $25 to $100 per acre.

Long Plan Beaten

Texas lawmakers decisively defeated the plan of Gov. Huey P. Long of Louisiana for cotton abandonment in 1932—a measure enacted by his own Legislature and later adopted by the South Carolina Assembly for that State.

What other cotton growing states would do remained in doubt tonight.

Without a general agreement among the states, any curtaliment program would be ineffective. Texas, which produces a third of the nation's crop, holds the balance of power.

Opponents of acreage reduction are expected to attack the constitutionality of the Texas statute. Gov. Long, in announcing recently he would not place the Texas plan before the Louisiana Legislature, asserted the legislation would not stand up in the courts.

Gov. Harvey Parnell, of Arkansas, was quoted today as saying he would not act until he learned the sentiment of Arkansas farmers toward the new Texas law.

Gov. Russell, of Georgia, was attending the American Legion convention in Detroit.

Gov. T. G. Bilbo, of Mississippi, declined to discuss the subject of an extra session of his Legislature.

Horton Fears Impeachment

Gov. Henry H. Horton, of Tenness, announced he would call an extra session of the Tennessee Legislature "if and when" he became convinced no impeachment or investigating resolutions would be initiated and that "every disturbing agency" would be kept from the floor.

The South Carolina Assembly ratified the bill prohibiting cotton planting in that State next year and sent it to Gov. I. C. Blackwood for his signature.

Gov. W. H. Murray, of Oklahoma, has expressed himself in favor of reduction of both cotton and wheat acreage, indicating he would submit the question direct to the voters at the polls.

NEWS

Denis. Tex.

SEP 17 1931

HE WAS A WISE NEGRO

According to Hubert Harrison in East Texas for September, a colored farmer in East Texas came to a banker friend and asked him what the white folks meant by "depression," anyhow. Says Mr Harrison:

"The banker explained the meaning of the word quite fully. This farmer has a smokehouse full of home cured hams and bacon, and a pantry full of canned vegetables, fruit, chicken and beef. He produces his own milk and butter and some to sell. He has a little home paid for. He lives well on his place and sells enough of various surplus crops during the year to bring in enough cash for his needs outside of his own products. He is making a living rather than making money. He is emphasizing values rather than prices."

As Mr. Harrison sees it, the negro was in position to teach the white banker something, and did so. Yet we may make certain that he had no such thought in mind. There are a good many more like him, beyond a doubt. Values, as Mr. Harrison puts it, are more important than prices. In time we will come to the point of seeing that.—Dallas News.

Virginia
6

Agriculture - 1931

Improvement of.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

SEP 2 1931

FORESIGHTED.

The Robesonian.

The wise person is willing to gather knowledge from any source. A story is going the rounds about how W. D. Hicks, a Negro farmer of Virginia, has learned to keep ahead of want. He told a visitor who wondered at his store of products canned for home use that he puts up food for two years ahead and never takes out the last can of anything until he has filled a can with the same thing. "I learned long ago," he said, "that the good Lord sometimes sends drought and sometimes sends flood, and 'count o' dat I always puts up food for two years ahead." He said that the Red Cross "had to help all the other niggers 'round here last year," but that it did not have to help him, his canned supplies kept him "off'n de cross."

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Agriculture—1931

Alabama

Labor Conditions.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES

JUL 23 1931

In Alabama

One Negro killed, five wounded and some fifty arrested on various charges are the results to date of efforts of a sheriff, armed officers and posses to break up Negro meetings in the neighborhood of Camp Hill, Ala.

The ever-ready cry of Communism promptly is raised. Communist agitators are charged with seeking to organize the Negroes. This is expected to do its usual work of scaring the public into forgetfulness of wrongs and injustices that may be involved.

Immediately back of these Alabama troubles is, of course, the recent death sentence imposed upon eight young Negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls. The trial took place in a community where prejudice admittedly was very strong. Protests against the sentences have been nation-wide. An appeal to the Alabama supreme court is pending.

But the circumstances under which these eight Negroes were condemned to death are not the only thing behind Negro unrest in Alabama. There appear to be deep-seated economic grievances. It is charged that planters hold in a state of practical peonage the Negro tenant farmers, to whom they advance credit and supplies.

Interest rates as high as 72 per cent, fake bookkeeping and false grading of crops are said to keep Negro "share croppers" in never-ending bondage to the same masters, and there is little redress for the black man in the courts.

Here is a rich soil for Communism. Denouncing Communist agents does not change conditions that fairly beckon Communist propagandists to come in and take a hand.

Nor can we expect all Negroes to stand firm against communistic tempters. We wish we could go all the way with William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, when he says:

"It must have been the aim of the Communist agitators deliberately to muddle the matter and stir up trouble. It is a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'Negro proletariat' to the Communist party. They misunderstood the situation and the psychology of the American Negro and of the south.

"I am not here opposing Communism as an economic philosophy. I am opposing it as a means of defending those eight Negro boys in the south. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."

Of course, it was the aim of the Communist agitators to stir up trouble. And they are likely to meet with some success wherever human beings are conscious of wrongs that the government persistently ignores. It would be too much to expect these Alabama Negroes, one and all, to turn a deaf ear to the blandishments of Communism.

Study these Alabama troubles. Find out what the Negro meetings are for before turning sheriffs and posses loose on them. If grounds for protest are legitimate, those grounds become no less legitimate, the obligation of government to find a remedy becomes no less imperative, merely because protest becomes disorderly.

Above all, break away from the theory that in these United States even wrong becomes right when Communism points a finger at it and speaks to those who suffer by it.

ALABAMA SHARE CROPPERS GIVEN THIRD DEGREE

Authorities Stop Arrests After Protests Are Made

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Fifty-five jailed Negro share croppers are remaining staunch in support of their union and refuse to divulge the names of the other members and leaders of their organization who have not as yet been apprehended by the plantation owners' police," is a statement issued by the southern office of the International Labor Defense from its representative who is now in Camp Hill, Alabama, the scene of the recent massacre on Negro share croppers.

Ralph Gray, a Negro cropper, was murdered in bed by the police while under the care of a physician, and five other Negroes were seriously wounded. Four workers are missing and 55 have been jailed.

The southern office of the I. L. D. reports to the national office here that the jailed croppers have been mercilessly third-degreed by the local authorities. The men in jail have shown an unusual line of solidarity and their spirits are high. It is reported that the membership of the union is close to eight hundred.

General George W. Chamlet of Tennessee and a local Alabama attorney will represent the imprisoned share croppers for the International Labor Defense. A hearing was held last week. The charges against them vary from conspiracy to murder, assault with intent to murder, to carrying concealed weapons.

After protests of a militant nature came pouring in upon Governor Miller of Alabama and the chief of police, the local judge in Camp Hill and the prosecuting attorney advised the sheriff in a public statement "to stop arresting any more Negroes."

In a statement issued by J. Louis Engdahl, general secretary of tht I. L. D., it was emphasized that while the active terror in and around Camp Hill has subsided, "we must not lull ourselves into any belief that everything is well. These imprisoned Negro share croppers must be defended in and out of court, backing the legal defense with a militant protest. The right of Negroes to defend themselves against lynching mobs must be upheld. The right of Negro share croppers to organize against unbearable conditions must be fought for.

"The right of Negro workers and their sympathizers to protest the Scottsboro injustice or any race discrimination must be militantly upheld. Negro and white workers are organizing for that purpose. This is a great historical movement in the history of the American Negro and white working class movement. The International Labor Defense and all its affiliated organizations pledges itself to fight to the very end against the terror organized by the ruling class."

INVESTIGATION MADE

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Reports made by responsible parties in Alabama to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reveal new information concerning the race riot at Camp Hill, Alabama, on July 10. Two white men and one Negro from Chattanooga, reputed to be Communist organizers, went to Camp Hill, recently and formed an organization of Negroes ostensibly to protest against share cropping.

It is revealed that these organizers wrote, or caused to be written, in the minute books of the newly formed organization that its name should be "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People."

When rumors began to be circulated that the organization was for the purpose of killing or doing harm to officials and when serious consequences threatened, the two white men are reported to have departed from the vicinity hastily, leaving the Negro organizer to "complete the organization."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has requested its attorneys in Alabama to act in defending the 34 imprisoned Negroes who appear to be innocent dupes.

Agriculture-1931

Alabama

Labor Conditions.

Birmingham, Ala. News
Saturday, July 18, 1931

The Affair At Dadeville May Be A Needed Lesson

Dadeville community and the state at large have been shocked by the tragic events of Wednesday night. Terror has seized upon the people of that pleasant village and the country 'roundabout by reason of the visit of two black men—Communist evangelists—and the manner in which they lured several hundred simple-minded colored people to a backwoods church. The tragic events of that gathering, resulting in the wounding of Sheriff Young, the slaying of a Negro thereafter, and the wounding of several other members of the church audience, have brought great fear to Dadeville folk lest worse things still may transpire. Correspondent James Russell, observing the situation there, reports that 22 Negroes are in the county jail at Dadeville and that a posse is in hot pursuit of the Communist leaders who led these simple folk astray.

It is devoutly to be hoped that the white people of that community will keep their outraged passions well-reined in this extremity. Clearly, it is desirable that the ringleaders be captured—not killed. In all likelihood, it will be found that these simple-minded Negroes in the Dadeville prison are guilty of no greater wrongdoing than that they hearkened to the wily words of these Negro pied pipers and followed them to the forest rendezvous. Blindly, these Negroes of Dadeville community may have been convinced by these black evangelists that the Scottsboro offenders were innocent of any wrongdoing.

Be that as may, the whole tragic affair should be thoroughly investigated so that the commonwealth may have the fullest possible knowledge of what is being done by Communist agents to demoralize the colored people, our neighbors.

Probably the temper of the Dadeville Negroes is no whit different from Negroes of other rural or urban communities in Alabama. Negro leaders and preachers who come in constant touch with members of their race have no greater responsibility at this time than to disarm any belief the rank and file may entertain that these Red evangelists are their friends. There must be no repetition of the Dadeville affair. Race leaders in Alabama should cooperate with Alabama law enforcement officials in weeding out these social enemies whenever they appear with incendiary talk.

Kingsport, Tenn. Times
Sunday, July 19, 1931

Hearing Will Be Held for Negroes

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 18. (AP)—Conditions tonight had been rested to normal in Tallapoosa county and authorities moved to give a preliminary hearing to 34 negroes arrested on various charges as the result of disorders following a meeting of the "Share Coppers Union," near Camp Hill Thursday night.

Formal charges ranging from conspiracy to commit murder to carrying concealed weapons today were filed against the negroes by Solicitor General Sanford Mullins and a preliminary hearing was set for July 28.

In Camp Hill, Waverly and here the usual Saturday crowd was on the street, with the addition of some curiosity seekers, but there was no sign of disorder.

A few negroes, not members of the "Share Coppers Union," identified by authorities as Radical organization, were among the Saturday shoppers.

The disorders followed the wounding of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson as they, with Chief of Police J. M. Wilson of Camp Hill, sought to question Ralph Gray, a negro picket at the meeting Thursday night.

Gray was killed in a second exchange of shots with officers, after being wounded by the sheriff and Chief Wilson. Three other negroes were wounded in a clash with a posse seeking a Chattanooga, Tenn., negro who was said to have organized the union.

Mullins said the negroes under arrest gave information concerning the organization of the union today. The solicitor general said evidence disclosed that at the meeting Thursday night the murder of Sheriff Young and his deputies who, previously had disbanded a similar gathering here and confiscated large quantities of inflammatory literature, was plotted.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
Saturday, July 18, 1931

REPORT NEGRO BAND HEADED TO DADEVILLE

Town is An Armed Camp; International Labor Defense Sends Protest to Governor of State

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 18.—(AP)—This little seat of Tallapoosa county had the aspect of an armed camp today as result of reports that negroes with shotguns and pistols were on their way here to protest the holding of 17 negroes arrested yesterday in raids to break up "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People."

More than 50 heavily armed men guarded the jail and patrols were stationed on the outskirts of town.

SEARCH CONTINUES

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 18—(AP)—Armed posses continued today to comb Tallapoosa county in search of organizers and members of "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People" that is protesting against the sentencing to death of eight negroes in Scottsboro, Ala., for an alleged assault on two white girls who were hoboing aboard a freight train.

Social Equality

Other objectives of the society, according to Chief J. M. Wilson, of Camp Hill, are political and social equality and a minimum wage of $2 a day. He described the organization as Communist-inspired.

Disorders in connection with efforts of county authorities to break up meetings of the society Thursday night and yesterday resulted in the killing of one negro, the disappearance of another, and the arrest of 17, and the wounding of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson. The sheriff's condition is serious.

Three negroes were wounded, two of whom are now under arrest. The other is not accounted for. Chief Wilson said he "went to cut stove wood," and in reply to a question as to when he would return the chief said "He has lots to cut."

Protest Entered

Meanwhile, the general headquarters in New York of the International Labor Defense and the southern district headquarters in Chattanooga have protested the activities of Tallapoosa officials as "slaughter" and "terror." The Chattanooga branch telegraphed Governor Miller, of Alabama, demanding "the right of the negro and white croppers to organize, meet and defend themselves against lynch mobs," and announcing that "we hold you responsible for terrorist actions planned against croppers and their leaders."

Another telegram to Chief Wilson demanded the "cessation of the reign of terror against negro share croppers who are organizing to ward off starvation and to protest against the Scottsboro legal lynching." The message advised the chief he would be held "responsible for those already arrested."

One of the organizers being hunted is a negro from Chattanooga, which is the home of several of the negroes convicted in the Scottsboro case. Chattanooga police last night said a number of negro Communists there left yesterday for this section. Harry Gordon, a white Communist organizer, held a meeting of negroes in Chattanooga last week to arouse organized protest against the Scottsboro convictions.

CAMP HILL RIOT IS LAID TO IGNORANCE

Interracial Commission Official Sees Education Of Negro As Black Man's Hope

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 30.—(AP)—James D. Burton, of Oakdale, Tenn., interstate secretary of the Commission on Racial Cooperation, has issued a statement here in which he said "it was the ignorant element, for the most part, led by outside agitators" who participated in the disorders July 17 at Camp Hill.

Burton's statement was in a report of an investigation into the outbreak which resulted in the death of Ralph Gray, negro, and the wounding of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and Deputy Sheriff A. J. Thompson when the latter two attempted to break up a meeting of the "Share Croppers Union" reputed radcial organization.

"The extension of educational facilities for colored people as rapidly as means will permit is a wise course to pursue throughout the State," the report said in regard to preventing a recurrence of the trouble.

"Tallapoosa County has just completed a training school for the colored.... Educational facilities that are now rapidly being provided for the colored people will make impossible such occurrences as the Camp Hill affair.

"The establishment of committees on interracial cooperation by leaders of the two races in various centers, and where no such committees exist, certain individuals are giving their time and thought, are encouraging evidences of a desire for cooperation, understanding and good will."....

"The interracial committee of Alabama does not claim to be performing any thrilling miracles, but it is patiently, sanely, and persistently going about its work from day to day, making contacts with boards of education, superintendents of schools, judges of courts, officials of State and county governments, pastors' associations and church boards in behalf of racial justice and cooperation."....

Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, is State chairman of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

ALBANY, N. Y.
KNICKERBOCKER PRESS

JUL 20 1931

THE RIOTS IN ALABAMA.

From the New York Herald-Tribune.

Reports of race rioting in Alabama, following suppression of protest meetings against the death sentences imposed on eight Negroes at Scottsboro, suggest real cause for alarm. The danger lies even more in the attitude of the police authorities than in the dynamite always associated with the race issue in American communities.

The Scottsboro sentences are before the Alabama Supreme Court on appeal. Undoubtedly Communists have endeavored to exploit the case for their own violent ends; undoubtedly also the record of the case suggests something less than the impartial scales of justice. It would seem to us that Alabama Negroes have a right to organize meetings of protest; that wise police officers would let them talk. Apparently, in Tallapoosa county, Ala., the sheriffs have been breaking up such meetings on the theory that they constituted a prima facie menace to the public peace.

After one of these meetings a sheriff met a Negro with a bundle. Those accompanying him say that the Negro fired first. At any rate both Negro and sheriff were wounded. The Negro is dead today and the sheriff is in the hospital. The church where the meetings were held has burned to the ground, and four other Negroes, wounded

by police fire, seem to be mysteriously missing. The chief of police of Camp Hill says "They went out to get stove wood and haven't returned yet" and fails to explain the crytic statement.

Events of this kind belong to the realm of gangdom, not to the resources of the law.

Saturday, July 18, 1931

Investigate It

Alabama has introduced, in the South, the very latest in big-city violence. The other day, several shops in Birmingham were bombed by racketeers, and now we see where blood has been shed in a "Communist riot" at Dadeville. One negro has been killed, two white men and five negroes wounded.

Five negroes have been "sent out after stovewood," and have not returned. The inference is sinister.

Negroes gathered at a lonely cabin in the woods and began "demonstrating," and speaking in favor of the release of the negroes at Scottsboro who have been sentenced to death.

The trouble is said to have started when the sheriff sought to disarm a negro sentry guarding the cabin. Why should the sentry have been on guard? Speech is free in America, and the negroes were entirely within their rights in meeting and protesting against the executon of the seven negroes at Scottsboro. The mere fact that they were protesting does not make them Communists, although a negro Communist from Chattanooga is said to have been the leader.

The entire affair calls for an investigation, especially the fate of the negroes who were "sent out for stovewood."

We hope that Alabama will seek to bring out all the facts in connection with these "Communist riots." There are too many elements of mystery about it. Many of these so-called "Communist riots" prove upon investigation, to have been deputy sheriff riots.

Hackleburg, Ala., Sentinel
Thursday, July 23, 1931

POSSEE HALTS NEGRO MEET

One Hundred Men Called Out And Quash Gathering Of Blacks

CAMP HILL, Ala—Quiet restored after a night of turbulence was broken here late Friday as word spread that negro radicals planned a meeting in the woods three miles from Waverly Friday night and an armed posse was summoned from Tallapoosa and Lee counties.

Word concerning the proposed meeting was meager, but 30 armed men immediately left Camp Hill for the scene to prevent the meeting which officers said was similar to the one near here Thursday night and resulted in the slaying of one negro, wounding of two officers and three negroes.

Seventeen negroes, alleged members of the organization, now are under arrest.

Possemen who left here said that probably 100 men had been called to prevent the meeting. At the meeting here Thursday night threats against Governor Miller were made unless he immediately released eight negroes under death sentence for an attack on two girls near Scottsboro, Ala., last March.

A posse of eight men, reported from Notasulga, that they were still trailing a negro from Chattanooga, who for two months has been organizing negroes in this section in what confiscated minute books described as the Society for the Advancement of Colored People.

Atlanta, Ga., Journal
Monday, July 20, 1931

ALABAMA POLICE DEFEND ARREST OF 34 NEGROES

Labor Defense Secretary Claims Gray Killing "Unjustifiable"

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 20.—(AP). Thirty-four negroes, arrested in connection with efforts of Tallapoosa County authorities to break up "the Share Croppers Union," were in jail Monday on charges ranging from conspiracy to murder to carrying concealed weapons, while the International Labor Defense and Police Chief J. M. Wilson, of Camp Hill, engaged in a duel of statements.

Conspiracy to murder and assault with intent to murder charges were lodged against some of the negroes as result of the serious wounding Thursday night of Sheriff J. Kyle Young, near Camp Hill, while a meeting of the union was in progress. Ralph Gray, negro, was accused by officers of the actual wounding and he was slain, but Solicitor Sanford Mullins asserts he has evidence that the meeting was called to plot the murder of Young and his deputies.

This version was denied Sunday night in a formal statement in Chattanooga, Tenn., of Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the southern district of the International Labor Defense, who said the slaying of Gray was unjustifiable and "these croppers, organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life, were protesting the attempted legal lynching of nine negro boys at Scottsboro, Ala." Wakefield also charged that four negroes probably were lynched during the Camp Hill warfare.

"Every attempt," he said, "on the part of negro and white workers and poor farmers to organize against starvation or against the bosses' terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

He said objectives of "the Share Croppers Union" were to prevent food allowances from being cut off, obtain cash settlements for crops this fall, win a general improvement of working conditions, and to fight the conviction of the Scottsboro negroes for an alleged assault on two white girls who were hoboing aboard a freight train.

In reply, Chief Wilson denied that any other negroes besides Gray were killed and said Gray was shot only after he had fired twice on the officers, and his killing was in defense of the officers' lives. The chief also denied that any attempt had been made to cut off food allowances as "land owners had to have laborers to harvest their crops or lose them."

The situation in Tallapoosa County was normal over the week-end. Officers express the belief that the organizers and members of the union have been dispersed, at least for some time. The union was organized about two months ago. In raids on its meetings officers said they also found evidence of organization of a and social equality, but this order is not now accused of having any part in the disturbances of last week.

Cottonwood, Ala., Times
Friday, July 24, 1931

34 NEGROES HELD IN ALABAMA JAIL FOLLOWING FIGHT

"The Share Croppers" Union Meeting Caused Trouble Near Dadeville

Thirty-four negroes arrested in connection with efforts of Tallapoosa county authorities to break up "The Share Croppers Union," were in jail today on charges ranging from conspiracy to murder to carrying concealed weapons while the International Labor defense and Police Chief J. M. Wilson of Camp Hill, engaged in a duel of statements.

Solicitor Sanford Mullins said he had evidence the meeting was called to plot the murder of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and his deputies.

This version was denied last night in a formal statement in Chattanooga Tenn., of Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the southern district of the International Labor Defense, who said "these croppers, organizizng to obtain the bare necessities of life, were protesting the attempted legal lynching of nine negro boys at Scottsbora, Ala." Wakefield also charged that four negroes probably were lynched during the Camp Hill warfare.

In reply, Chief Wilson denied that any other negroes besides Ralph Gray were killed and said Gray was shot only after he had fired twice on officers, and his killing was in defense of the officers' lives.

The situation in Tallapoosa county was normal first of the week.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

JUL 18 1931

Under the Red Flag.

It is all very well to laugh off the communists and let it go at that so long as they confine their activities to red flag waiving, parading, ranting and other fool antics, but when they undertake to interfere with the processes of the law and its officers it is high time to trot out the big stick and put an end to the racket in short order. And Alabama is the state that may be depended upon to do that very thing. Alabama also may be depended upon to mete out a full measure of justice to accused persons brought to trial in her courts without suggestions or mandates from communistic hoodlums from within or without her borders.

Protests of groups of negroes against the sentencing of eight of their race to death broke into warfare between the protestants and state officers at Camp Hill, Ala., yesterday. One negro was killed and two officers were wounded. The trouble originated several months ago when two white girls, seeking employment and riding a freight train between cotton mill towns because they had no money, were attacked and assaulted by a group of negroes. Eight of the assailants were caught, convicted and sentenced to hang. The communistic forces got busy, as in the celebrated Sacco-Vanzetti case. They determined to prevent the executions.

The hangings were postponed pending an appeal to the supreme court after the Governor had refused to grant new trials. Pending the time when the higher court hands down its decision, it is hoped the communists will attempt no rther interference in the case. If y should, it will not be necessary tell Alabama officers what to do. ey know their duty. The time has not yet arrived in the south--certainly not in Alabama—when a band of murderous hoodlums under a red flag, be they black or white, can dictate sentences in the high courts of justice.

Agriculture-1931
Labor Conditions

Alabama

FURTHER ARRESTS IN DISORDERS AT DADEVILLE LOOM

Birmingham Ala

Warrants Issued Against 29 Of 35 Negroes In Jail; Conditions Normal

DADEVILLE—Further arrests in connection with the disorders that followed a mass meeting of negro radicals near Camp Hill Thursday night are expected by Tallapoosa County officers as their investigation continues. Normal conditions were restored in the county Saturday night.

Warrants have been issued against 29 of the 35 negroes in jail here. Five are charged with assault with intent to murder, 23 with conspiring to kill, and one with carrying concealed weapons.

Search was continued for a Chattanooga negro, said to be a radical organizer, who incited negroes of this section to insurrection by urging them to demand social equality and to take what they wanted.

The quiet that prevailed throughout Saturday was suddenly broken for a short while during the afternoon when officers rushed to a river bridge to meet eight carloads of negroes reported from Sylacauga to have passed through there traveling toward Dadeville. The officers found nothing more than a negro funeral procession.

Preliminary hearing for the negroes has been postponed until July 28 so the investigation can be made more thorough.

Sheriff Wounded

The shooting Thursday night resulted in the critical wounding of Sheriff Young, shooting of Deputy Thompson and fatal wounding of Ralph Gray, negro. The officers said they were fired on when they approached the meeting place of the negroes.

Sheriff Young was reported in a satisfactory condition at an Alexander City Hospital.

At Montgomery, Gov. Miller declined to comment on a telegram received from the International Labor Defense at Chattanooga protesting the Dadeville situation and holding him accountable for the lives of eight negroes sentenced to die for attacks on two Huntsville girls.

Attempts To Incite Florida Negroes Made

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—(AP)—Communistic activity in the Fort Lauderdale area was indicated Saturday, police said with the finding of a quanitiy of literature scattered in the negro section.

Authorities said the literature was of a nature tending to stir unrest and dissatisfaction among the negroes over the sentencing of eight negroes to death at Scottsboro, Ala.

One of the pamphlets contained a picture of the eight negroes and a caption, "Stop legal lynching of these colored boys." Another sheet urged negroes to demand equality with whites.

Labor Defense Group Sends Another Protest

NEW YORK—(AP)—The International Labor Defense Saturday night announced it had sent another protest to the governor of Alabama over disorders growing out of a share croppers' meeting near Camp Hill Thursday night.

With the protest was sent a demand that all workers regardless of race, be given "the right of free ...ch and assembly to organize ...and protests against unbear... ...onditions and discrimination of color."

NEW YORK SUN

JUL 17 1931

NEGRO SHOT DEAD IN PROTEST FIGHT

Sheriff and Deputy Wounded in Alabama Clash.

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 17 (A. P.).—Protests of groups of Negroes against the sentencing of eight of their race to death in Scottsboro, Ala., flared into warfare with Tallapoosa county authorities last night and today and one Negro was killed and a sheriff and his deputy were wounded.

The sheriff, J. Kyle Young, was said by physicians to have only a slight chance to recover. The Negro, Ralph Gray, was wounded in an exchange of fire last night, but escaped, and was slain early today in a raid on his home in which eight other Negroes were arrested.

Meanwhile a posse of 100 or more civilians and 40 officers from here, Dadeville, Opalika, Alexander City and Wetumpka searched the county with bloodhounds for a number of Negroes from Chattanooga, Tenn., who were described by the local Chief of Police, J. M. Wilson, as "Communist organizers."

Solicitor J. Sanford Mullins of Tallapoosa county said further trouble was expected.

Several of the eight Negroes sentenced to death in Scottsboro were from Chattanooga. They were charged with attacking two white girls who were riding on a freight train. The International Labor Defense, a Communist organization, has organized a worldwide protest against the death sentences on the grounds that the charges were a "frame-up" and without factual basis. The case is now before the Alabama Supreme Court.

Chief Wilson said one meeting was held here Wednesday night by approximately 150 Negroes who demanded that the Governor free the Scottsboro group. The meeting was broken up and last night, he said, another meeting to protest the death sentences was held and this time the Negroes were armed. He went to Dadeville, the county seat, where another meeting of Negroes, also in connection with the Scottsboro case, was being held and at which speeches advocating social and political equality were being delivered. The sheriff's forces broke up this meeting and seized a large quantity of literature officially described as "inflamatory."

NEW YORK AMERICAN

JUL 18 1931

NEGRO KILLED, 5 WOUNDED IN POSSE BATTLE

Alabama Clash Starts When Sheriff Visits Meeting Called to Protest Executions

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 17 (AP).—A meeting of negro radicals near here last night, at which Governor Miller was threatened with violence unless he liberated eight negroes sentenced to execution for attacking two white girls, led to clashes with posses today in which one man was killed, five wounded and seventeen arrested.

All was quiet here tonight after officers and citizens had spent the day searching the countryside for those suspected of having a part in the disorder.

A small negro house near the place where the meeting was held was destroyed by fire soon afterward. It was reported at first that a church in which the negroes had met was burned

A posse of eight men, reported from Notasulga, Ala., late today that they were still trailing a negro from Chattanooga, Tenn., who for two months has been organizing negroes in this section.

PROTEST EXECUTIONS.

Chief of Police Wilson said last night's meeting was in protest against the death sentence imposed against the eight negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., in April for attacking the girls near there.

The disorders, in which more than 200 shots were fired, were precipitated as Sheriff Young, Deputy Sheriff Thompson and Wilson approached the church where the meeting was in progress.

Ralph Gray, negro, was on picket duty and fired on the officers as they sought to question him.

Sheriff Young was struck in the side and Thompson on the wrist. Gray dropped under a volley from the officers and was left for dead. Later he was picked up by an unidentified motorist and taken home.

A physician called to treat him notified a posse, and at the Gray home they were met with another volley. In the exchange Gray was struck several times and died en route to jail with eight companions who had taken refuge in the house.

ONE MISSING.

The most prolonged battle between possemen, numbering 150, and members of the organization occurred near the church. It was here the three negroes were wounded.

Two of the wounded were taken to the Dadeville jail. The other one, Chief Wilson said, "went to cut stovewood." Asked when he would return, the chief said, "he has lots to cut."

Posses were summoned later from Tallapoosa and Lee counties as reports spread that negro radicals planned a second meeting in the woods near Waverly.

NEW YORK MIRROR

JUL 18 1931

Riot Over Negro 'Reds' Fades Away

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 17.—Gov. Miller said tonight the state militia would not be called out as a result of disorders today at Camp Hill, Tallapoosa County, where one negro was slain and two officers and eight negroes wounded.

The governor ignored reports that his life would be in danger if he did not liberate the eight other negroes who were convicted recently at Scottsboro, Ala., of an attack on two white girls. The negroes are now under sentence of death.

The case of the eight negroes condemned to death was at the bottom of the disturbance. Came protests from Communist organizations in Russia against the execution of the sentence which was represented as having been imposed because the negroes were "Reds".

The meeting at which the bloodshed occurred was addressed by a Communist speaker.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

JUL 19 1931

Fifty Negroes Under Arrest In Race Clash

Intent to Murder Is Charged to Five as Quiet Is Restored in Alabama Town

Red Organizer Escapes

White Men Took Part in Agitation, Official Learns

By The Associated Press

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 18.—After a night of futile search by posses for organizers of the Society for the Advancement of Colored People, Tallapoosa County was virtually restored to quiet today.

A scheduled meeting of the society last night in the wood around Waverly, near here, did not take place. Possemen were unable to find trace of a reported invasion by armed Communists from Chattanooga, Tenn. All roads leading from that city were guarded throughout the night. Officials this morning expressed the opinion that the Negroes active in the society were hiding in the woods. The society, organized within the last two months, has been holding meetings in protest against the sentencing to death of eight Negroes in Scottsboro, Ala., for assault on two white girls riding on a freight train. Officials say there are 170 known members in this vicinity.

Sheriff J. Kyle Young was shot and seriously wounded Thursday night as he and a deputy attempted to question a Negro picket at a church in which the meeting was in progress. The picket was killed by possemen.

[illegible] Negroes are under arrest. Charges of assault with intent to commit murder were filed today against five of the Negroes imprisoned here. Twenty were charged with conspiring to commit a felony and seven were charged with carrying concealed weapons. No charges have been made against the others.

Solicitor Mullin said he had learned from questioning the Negroes that they had called their organization "The Share Croppers' Union." All efforts to establish the identity of the Negro organizer from Chattanooga, who escaped a posse yesterday, have failed, he said. "One of the Negroes told me that two months ago four white men and the Negro from Chattanooga arrived in an automobile to begin the organization," said Solicitor Mullins, "and after a day or two the white men departed, leaving the Negro to complete the organization. There is no doubt in my mind that, if the Sheriff and his deputies had not exchanged shots with the picket, the party would have been murdered on arrival at the church," the solicitor concluded.

The appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court automatically acts as a stay of execution, Mr. Pickens said, and no decision is expected from that tribunal before fall.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

JUL 19 1931

Alabama Attack On Negro Group Protested Here

Baldwin Appeals to Governor and Labor Defense Starts Investigation of Outbreak

Communists Are Blamed

Attempt to Win Farmers to Party Seen Behind Act

The killing of one Negro, the wounding of five and the arrest of many others in an outbreak on Friday at Camp Hill, Ala., brought action and protest yesterday from several organizations in this city.

A telegram to Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama, urging him to tell his subordinates "to respect the rights of Negroes," was dispatched by Roger N Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union. The International Labor Defense announced that it had ordered its Southern office at Chattanooga to investigate the matter, and that it would provide legal defense for thirty-two Negroes now under arrest at Camp Hill. Meanwhile, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People condemned Communists as having stirred up the outbreak in "a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'Negro proletariat to the Communist party."

Behind the outbreak, all agreed, were two things: first, the attempt of poor Negro "share croppers," or tenant farmers, to form a union and better their condition, and second, the now famous "Scottsboro case"—the death sentence of eight young Negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., for an alleged attack on two girl hoboes on a freight train. The Scottsboro case has been the occasion for many Communist demonstrations both here and in the South, and both the International Labor Defense and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have raised defense funds for appealing it to higher courts.

A protest against the Scottsboro verdict was one of the purposes of the gathering of Negroes at Camp Hill, in addition to the formation of the share croppers' union.

Baldwin Charges Abuse of Power

"Press reports all agree," Mr. Baldwin telegraphed Governor Miller, "that the sheriff of Tallapoosa County broke up two private meetings of Negroes because he opposed the purposes of the meetings. We submit that breaking up private meetings by armed officers is a violation of the rights they have sworn to protect. All subsequent troubles seem to have been due to that lawless abuse of power. This seems to us the central issue at the bottom of tragic disorders.

"As representing thousands of American citizens devoted to protecting civil liberties, among them many Southerners, we urge a thorough investigation and an executive warning to your officers to respect the rights of Negroes and others to hold meetings to organize and discuss their grievances."

The International Labor Defense, which says it has ten attorneys, headed by General George W. Chamlee, of Chattanooga, busy on the Scottsboro case, announced that its legal staff also would defend the Negroes under arrest at Camp Hill. Telegrams of protest to Governor Miller and to the local chief of police also were dispatched by this organization.

J. Louis Engdahl, secretary, denied that his organization, a Communist one, was organizing the share croppers. He declared, however, that these poor tenant farmers were kept in a state of peonage through being held perpetually in debt to the planter who advances them credit and supplies. By charging interest rates as high as 72 per cent, and by false entries and grading of the crop, he charged, the share croppers are never able to get out of debt, and therefore never can leave their masters. The white planter's word is taken in court, and the Negro, disenfranchised, is absolutely helpless, according to Mr. Engdahl.

Share Croppers Defended

"On Wednesday night 150 Negro share croppers met to formulate their demands and protest the Scottsboro verdict," he said. "The police invaded the meeting and attacked the assembled croppers. Thursday night the share croppers called a meeting in a church but 200 police and deputies again dispersed the crowd, burning the church to the ground.

"The share croppers' union has been in process of organization during the past few months against miserable starvation wages. An attack on the union has been launched by the plantation owners around Camp Hill. Homes of share croppers have been invaded by the police, led in many cases by the land owners themselves."

Land owners opposed to the union were "after" its leaders and organizers, Mr. Engdahl asserted, and added that one organizer from Motasulga, Ala., was still missing and "will undobtedly be lynched" when found. He insisted that the motive behind these meetings of Negroes was primarily an economic one and that the Scottsboro case figured in them as a minor issue.

William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, denied that any of its workers had been active among the Negroes of Camp Hill, as at first reported in press dispatches, and asserted that the outbreak was a "Communist matter pure and simple." He added that planters of the region were only too glad to have the Scottsboro case injected, as it gave them an excuse to proceed against the share croppers' union.

Communists Accused

"The Communists must have known," he said, "that of all places in the world, the wrong place to begin any Communistic agitation among Negroes and about the releasing of the Scottsboro prisoners would be a place like Camp Hill, very near the prison where those boys are confined. And they must have known that of all times, right now would be the worst time, when the cases of the boys have been appealed and must wait on the action of the Alabama Supreme Court.

"It must, therefore, have been the aim of the Communist agitators to deliberately muddle the matter and stir up trouble. It is a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'Negro proletariat' to the Communist party. They misunderstand the situation and the psychology of the American Negro and of the South.

"I am not here opposing Communism as an economic philosophy; I am opposing it as a means for defending those eight Negro boys in the South. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."

The Scottsboro case is now at a standstill pending the decision of the Alabama Supreme Court. Thus far the International Labor Defense has spent more than $6,000 on it and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has raised $3,000 and expects to spend from $10,000 to $15,000 before it is through.

NEW YORK Illustrated News

JUL 18 1931

FIGHT STARTS AFTER THREAT AT GOVERNOR

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 17 (AP).—One colored man was killed, five were wounded, seventeen were arrested, and five more were being hunted with bloodhounds today as white posses sought leaders of a mass meeting near here at which Gov. B. M. Miller was threatened with violence unless he released eight colored youths under death sentence for an attack on two white girls near Scottsboro last March.

Sheriff J. Kyle Young and Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson were wounded when colored men opened fire on 150 possemen trying to force entrance into a colored home. Ralph Gray, colored, was killed by officers.

Map shows Camp Hill, Ala. (A) center of fatal race disturbances.

The church, five miles south of here, in which the mass meeting was held last night, was burned to the ground today.

A State campaign against Communist organizers among the colored people started early last night in Dadeville, where sheriff's deputies broke up a meeting of 200 at which speeches advocating social and political equality were being delivered. The next stop of the posse was made here.

An armed posse was summoned late today from Tallapoosa and Lee counties as reports spread that colored radicals planned a second meeting tonight in the woods near Waverly.

POSTPONE CAMP HILL

HEARING ALABAMA CROPPERS POSTPONED — NO EVIDENCE AGAINST MEN—I. L. D. ATTORNEYS DEMAND IMMEDIATE TRIAL—DEMONSTRATION AUG. 22ND—PLANTATION OWNERS BOAST OF DROWNING COLORED WORKERS.

New York, July 31, 1931.—Judge J. Percy Oliver sustained the request of District Attorney C. H. Vann and the local sheriff to postpone the hearing of the jailed members of the Share Croppers' Union of Camp Hill, Alabama, over the objections of General George W. Chamlee, International Labor Defense attorney who appeared as defense counsel for the jailed Colored workers who were organizing to better their conditions, and protesting the Scottsboro verdict. General Chamlee announced the defendants were ready for trial. The district attorney admitted in court that the state requests the postponement because of lack of evidence against the arrested share croppers.

General Chamlee and the other I. L. D. attorneys were in consultation with the arrested Colored prior to the hearing and found them all staunch in spirit and determined to continue their activities in behalf of black and white share croppers who are being mercilessly exploited by the plantation owners. It was also disclosed today that white share croppers are joining with their black fellow workers in one union which is "a new and hopeful sign."

Intimidation

Rumors around Dadeville are to the effect that the state will pick a few of the leading Colored share croppers now in pail and request from the Grand Jury indictments of "inciting to murder" in the hope that this will stay the growth of the union and "frighten other workers from joining the 800 organized share croppers of that region."

The national office of the I. L. D. instructed its southern office to secure bail for the jailed and extend immediate relief to the men and their families.

Five Croppers Still Missing

The five croppers who "mysteriously" disappeared after the police murdered Ralph Gray, a leader of the union, are now generally believed to have been killed by the landowners.

Agriculture - 1931

Labor Conditions

Alabama

NEGROES PROTEST CONVICTION; RESULTS IN SERIOUS RIOTING

Camp Hill, Ala., July 17 (AP)—Protests of groups of negroes against the sentencing of eight of their race to death in Scottsboro, Ala., resulted in a gun fight with Tallapoosa county authorities last night and today, and one negro was killed and a sheriff and his deputy were wounded.

The sheriff, J. Kyle Young, was said by physicians to have only a slight chance to recover. The negro, Ralph Gray, was shot down in an exchange of fire last night, but escaped and was slain early today in a raid on his home in which eight other negroes were arrested.

Meanwhile a posse of 100 or more civilians and 40 officers fro mhere, Dadeville, Opalika, Alexander City and Wetumpka searched the county with bloodhounds for a number of negroes from Chattanooga, Tenn., who were described by the local chief of police, J. N. Wilson, as "Communist organizers."

Solicitor J. Sanford Mullins of Tallapoosa county said further trouble was expected.

Some of the eight negroes sentenced to death in Scottsboro were from Chattanooga. They were charged with attacking two white girls who were hoboing on a train. The International Labor Defense, a Communist organization, has organized a world-wide protest against the death sentences on the grounds that the charges were a "frameup." The case is now before the Alabama supreme court.

Chief Wilson said one meeting was held here Wednesday night by approximately 150 negroes, who demanded that the governor free the Scottsboro group. The meeting was roken up. Last night, he said, another meeting to protest the death sentences was held and this time the negroes were armed. He went to Dadeville, the county seat, where another meeting of negroes, also in connection with the Scottsboro case, was being held and at which speeches advocating social and political equality were being delivered. The sheriff's forces broke up this meetinng and seized a large quantity of literature officially described as "inflamatory."

En route here the officers met Gray near the scene of the meeting and Chief Wilson said Sheriff Young asked Gray what was in a bundle he was carrying.

"It's none of your business," the negro was quoted as replying.

Then, according to Chief Wilson, Gray opened fire and Sheriff Young and Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson were felled. Thompson, however, not being wounded seriously.

The officers returned Gray's fire and he fell, presumably dead. He was left on the road while Sheriff Young was hurried to a hospital in Alexander City.

Later the officers were informed Gray had reached his home and had been given medical treatment. A posse immediately went to his residence and Chief Wilson said the ywere met by a hail of fire. Returning the fire, officers smashed down the doors, killed Gray and arrested eight of his companions.

Atlanta, Ga., Journal
Saturday, July 18, 1931

ALABAMA POSSES CONTINUE TO HUNT FOR COMMUNISTS

More Red Threats Sent to Governor Miller and Chief of Police

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 18.—(AP)—Armed posses continued Saturday to comb Tallapoosa County in search of organizers and members of "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People" that is protesting against the sentencing to death of eight negroes in Scottsboro, Ala., for an alleged assault on two white girls who were hoboing aboard a freight train.

Other objectives of the society, according to Chief J. M. Wilson, of Camp Hill, are political and social equality and a minimum wage of $2 a day. He described the organization as Communist-inspired.

Disorders in connection with efforts of county authorities to break up meetings of the society Thursday night and Friday resulted in the killing of one negro, the disappearance of another, and the arrest of seventeen, and the wounding of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson. The sheriff's condition is serious.

Three negroes were wounded, two of whom are now under arrest. The other is not accounted for. Chief Wilson said he "went to cut stove wood," and in reply to a question as to when he would return the chief said "he has lots to cut."

Meanwhile, the general headquarters in New York of the International Labor Defense and the southern district headquarters in Chattanooga have protested the activities of Tallapoosa officials as "slaughter" and "terror." The Chattanooga branch telegraphed Governor Miller, of Alabama, demanding "the right of the negro and white croppers to organize, meet and defend themselves against lynch mobs," and announcing that "we hold you responsible for terrorist action, planned against croppers and [illegible] leaders."

"Another telegram to Chief Wilson demanded the "cessation of the reign of terror against negro share croppers who are organizing to ward off starvation and to protest against the Scottsboro legal lynching." The message advised the chief he would be held "responsible for those already arrested."

One of the organizers being hunted is a negro from Chattanooga, which is the home of several of the negroes convicted in the Scottsboro case. Chattanooga police said Friday night a number of negro Communists there left Friday for this section. Harry Gordon, a white Communist organizer, held a meeting of negroes in Chattanooga last week to arouse organized protest against the Scottsboro conviction.

In the face of confessions and direct evidence the International Labor Defense maintains the Scottsboro case is a "frame-up" and the negroes are guilty of nothing more than stealing a ride aboard a freight train on which the two white girls and their white male companions also were hoboing. The case is now before the Alabama Supreme Court. Over 1,700 protests against the convictions have been received from various parts of the world, including one signed by Albert Einstein, the German scientist.

DADEVILLE RESTS ON ARMS AFTER RUMOR OF INVASION

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 18.—(AP)—This little seat of Tallapoosa County had the aspect of an armed camp Saturday as result of reports that negroes with shotguns and pistols were on their way here to protest the holding of seventeen negroes arrested Friday in raids to break up "the Society for the Advancement of Colored People."

More than fifty heavily armed [illegible] guarded the jail and patrols were tioned on the outskirts of town.

Montgomery Advertiser
July 20, 1931

Black 'Reds' Fail To Make Bond

34 Negroes Jailed After Camp Hill Trouble Are Unable To Furnish Bail

DADEVILLE, ALA., July 19.—(AP)—None of the 34 negroes held here in connection with the serious wounding of Sheriff J. Kyle Young, Thursday night near Camp Hill, at a meeting of "The Share Croppers Union," a radical organization, today had posted bond for liberty pending a preliminary hearing July 28.

Bonds were set yesterday at from $300 to $1,000 each depending on the charge preferred by Solicitor Sanford Mullins. The charges range from assault with intent to murder and conspiracy to murder Sheriff Young and two other officers, down to carrying concealed weapons.

Authorities said they expected some of those held, who could, would post bond in the next day or two, but that the majortiy would remain in jail until after the hearing.

Dadeville, Camp Hill and Waverly, scenes of disorder and conditions bordering on terror from Thursday night until yesterday were normal today, with a majority of the population of each attending the regular church services.

Authorities said they believed there would be no more disorder and that citizens of Tallapoosa County were determined to see the law take its course. There have been no threats against the negroes arrested.

During the disorders that grew out of the shooting of Sheriff Young and Deputy Sheriff A. J. Thompson at a church where "the union" was meeting Thursday night, Ralph Gray, the negro who fired on the officers who shot resisting arrest and two other negroes who are in jail here were wounded by possemen.

Solicitor Mullins said yesterday that he had evidence that the meeting Thursday night was called to plot the murder of Sheriff Young and his deputies who the previous night had raided a union meeting and confiscated a quantity of inflammatory literature.

Protests voiced against the execution of eight negroes under death sentence for an attack on two white girls at Scottsboro last March, was "an incident" to the meetings. The primary purpose of the organization, in which a membership fee of $5 was collected, was to force a larger share of crops and higher wages, with social equality and intermarriage with the white race a goal.

Authorities said the negroes would be given a fair and impartial hearing and those against whom there was no evidence would be promptly released at the preliminary hearing.

Chattanooga Official Protests Killing

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., July 19.—(AP)—Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the Southern district International Labor Defense in a statement today protested the killing of Ralph Gray, negro, at Camp Hill, Ala., last week.

Gray was shot by officers after he wounded two officials in an exchange of fire on a highway. The officers were en route to a meeting of negroes near Camp Hill at the time of the shooting.

Wakefield said the meeting was one of share crop farmers who were "organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life." He charged that every attempt on the part of negro and white workers and poor farms to organize against starvation or against the bosses" terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

The statement said negro share croppers had organized to oppose a plan which Wakefield charged was "put through on July 1 by the land owners and Tallapoosa County Chamber of Commerce to cut off food allowances to the share croppers and tenants, leaving them to starve to death."

Police Chief Declares Killing Was Justified

CAMP HILL, ALA., July 19.—(AP)—Police Chief J. M. Wilson, of Camp Hill, a witness to the shooting here last week of Ralph Gray, negro, commenting tonight on a statement of Lowell Wakefield, in Chattanooga, protesting Gray's killing, said Gray was shot "only after he had fired twice at officers, seriously wounding Sheriff J. Kyle Young and inflicting a minor flesh wound on Deputy Sheriff A. J. Thompson."

Wilson said the charge of Wakefield, secretary of the Southern district International Labor Defense, that "any plan has been made here to cut off food allowances to share croppers and tenants is untrue and ridiculous on its face." He said land owners had to have laborers to harvest their crops or lose them.

He said there was no "terror" here and that the only negro killed here was Gray "who was shot by officers in defense of their own lives." Wilson said several other negroes suffered minor flesh wounds in a brush with officers who attempted to arrest them.

Valdosta, Ga., Times
Saturday, July 18, 1931

POSSE SEEKING NEGRO MEMBERS

Desires to Arrest All Members "Society for Advance-

ment Colored People"

DADEVILLE IS ARMED

Camp Hill, Ala., July 18. (AP)—After a night of futile combing of the woods by armed possemen to round up organizers and members of "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People," Tallapoosa county was practically restored to quiet today.

A scheduled meeting of the society in the woods around Waverly, near here, did not take place so far as 20 possemen could discover. Other possemen were unable to find any trace of a reported invasion of armed communists from Chattanooga, Tenn., but all roads leading from there were guarded throughout the night.

The society, organized within the last two months, has been holding meetings to protest against the sentencing to death of eight negroes in Scottsboro, Ala., for an alleged assault on two white girls who were hoboing aboard a freight train.

Disorders in connection with efforts of county authorities to break up meetings of the society Thursday night and yesterday resulted in the killing of one negro, the disappearance of another, and the arrest of 50, and the wounding of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson. The sheriff's condition is serious.

Three negroes were wounded, two of whom are now under arrest. The other is not accounted for. Chief Wilson said he "went to cut stove-wood," and in reply to a question as to when he would return, the chief said "he has lots to cut."

Meanwhile the general headquarters in New York of the international labor defense and the southern district headquarters in Chattanooga have protested the activities of Tallapoosa officials as "slaughter" and "terror." The Chattanooga branch telegraphed Governor Miller of Alabama, demanding "the right of the negro and white croppers to organize, meet and defend themselves against lynch mobs" and announcing that "we hold you responsible for terrorist actions reported planned against croppers and their leaders."

DADEVILLE ARMS TO FACE FOES.

Dadeville, Ala., July 18. (AP)—This little seat of Tallapoosa county had the aspect of an armed camp today as result of reports that negroes with shotguns and pistols were on their way to protest the holding of 17 negroes arresterday in raids to break up "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People."

More than 50 heavily armed men guarded the jail and patrols were on the outskirts of town.

NEGRO UPRISNIG IN ALABAMA PUT DOWN WITH GUNS

Hundreds Gather at Meeting in Protest to Death Sentence of Eight and Threaten Governor Miller.

ONE SLAIN; OTHERS SHOT DURING FIGHTS

Church Where Meeting Held is Mysteriously Burned — More Than Three Hundred Possemen Seekig Leader.

Camp Hill, Ala., July 17. (AP)—Protests of groups of negroes against the sentencing of eight of their race to death in Scottsboro, Ala., resulted in a gun fight with Tallapoosa county authorities last night and today, and one negro was killed and five others shot and a sheriff and his deputy were wounded.

The sheriff, J. Kyle Young, was said by physicians to have only a slight chance to recover. The negro, Ralph Gray, was shot down in an exchange of fire last night but escaped, and was slain early today in a raid on his home in which eight other negroes were arrested.

Meanwhile a posse of more than 300 civilians and officers from here, Dadeville, Opalika, Alexander City, and Wetumpka searched the county with bloodhounds for a number of negroes from Chattanooga, Tenn,, who were described by the local chief of police J. M. Wilson, as "communist organizers."

Solicitor J. Sanford Mullins, of Tallapoosa county, said further trouble was expected.

Some of the eight negroes sentenced to death in Scottsboro were from Chattanooga. They were charged with attacking two white girls who were hoboing on a train. The International Labor Defense, a communist organization, has organized a world-wide protest against the death sentences on the grounds that the charges were a "frameup." The case is now before the Alabama supreme court.

Chief Wilson said one meeting was held here Wednesday night by approximately 150 negroes who demanded that the governor free the Scottsboro group. The meeting was broken up last night, he said, another meeting to protest the death sentences was held and this time the negroes were armed. He went to Dadeville, the county seat, where another meeting of negroes, also in connection with the Scottsboro case, was being held and at which speeches advocating social and political equality were being delivered. The sheriff forces broke up this meeting and seized a large quantity of literature officially described as "inflamatory".

En route here the officers met Gray near the scene of the meeting and Chief Wilson said Sheriff Young asked Gray what was in a bundle he was carrying.

"It's none of your business," the negro was quoted as replying.

Then, according to Chief Wilson, Gray opened fire and Sheriff Young and Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson were felled, Jackson, however, not being wounded seriously.

The officers returned Gray's fire and he fell, presumably dead. He was left on the road while Sheriff Young was hurried to a hospital in Alexander City.

Later the officers were informed Graw had reached his home and been given medical treatment. A posse immediately went to his residence and Chief Wilson said they were met by a hail of fire. Returning the fire, officers smashed down the doors, killed Gray, and arrested eight of his companions.

Chief of Police J. M. Wilson said the five negroes shot, one of whom was hurt seriously, were wounded in an exchange of fire with the posse.

He said at least thirty negroes had been placed in jail here at dawn. "We want five more," he said, "including a negro from Chattanooga who organized the meetings. All of the possemen are armed and we expect further outbreaks any minute."

Chief Wilson declined to give names of the negroes wounded but said one was in jail here badly wounded and that the other four "went to get stove wood and haven't returned yet." He declined further explanation.

Deputy Sheriff A. J. Thompson reported upon returning here from a visit to the scene of the disorders that the church in which the negroes held their meeting had been burned.

Later Chief of Police Wilson announced that the county solicitor, probate judge himself and civil leaders would meet at 11:30 a. m. to discuss the situation and determine what steps to take.

At 10:30 a. m. a total of 32 negroes had been arrested.

Chief Wilson said the origin of the fire which destroyed the church in which the mass meeting was held last night was not determined, but officers were investigating to determine if it was incendiary.

The posse pursuing the Chattanooga negro who was alleged to have organized the meeting last night and the one at Dadeville Wednesday night was reported as closing in on him near Notasulga, Ala.

Governor Not Notified

Montgomery, Ala., July 17. (AP)—Gov. B. M. Miller today said he had no official reports of the disturbance and purporter radical meetings of negroes in Tallapoosa county and unless local authorities requested troops he would not send national guardsmen to the county.

The governor had no comment to make on reports that threats against him were made at the meeting last night unless he released the eight negroes under death sentence for an attack on two white girls near Scottsboro, last March.

The negroes were sentenced last April to be executed on July 10 but an appeal to the supreme court acted as an automatic stay of execution.

During the trial of the negroes last April, demands were made on Governor Miller to "immediately release" the eight negroes or "be held personally responsible" by the International Labor Defense of New York. Since the conviction, more than 1,700 protests have been received by Governor Miller from various branches of the International Labor Defense in this and other countries, from individuals and from radical organizations.

The governor throughout has declined to comment on the protests.

Headland, Ala., Farmer
Thursday, July 23, 1931

SHARE CROPPERS UNION AND RED ORGANIZERS

Since the trial and conviction of 8 negroes for the assault of two young white women at Scottsboro thousands of letters of protest from all over the world have poured into the Governor's office, asking that they be given a change of venue and a new trial, claiming their conviction and execution will be legal murder. Most of these complaints have come from communist organizations and from people that dont know a thing about the facts in the case. They are always looking for some excuse to criticise the actions of duly elected officials.

As we see it these negroes were tried by a legally elected Judge, sworn to do his duty, and by twelve jurors that were selected for their honesty and integrity and after hearing the evidence were convicted for their crimes and meted out punishment, according to law.

Now comes another sequal to this case, in the form of an organization known as the Share Croppers Union, organized by a negro from Chattanooga, Tenn., home of five of the convicted negroes. One of their first offical acts after organization was to protest against the execuetion of the 8 negroes.

It is all right for the share croppers of this coustry to organize for better standards of living and to work out some plan by which they can receive better wages for their labor but why try to take charge of the courts and by threats make them conform to their ideas of justice. The organization is not advocating law and order but are trying to to inaugurate a reign of terroism , advising their members to demand $2 per day for work asd walk in a mans place of business and take what they want. This is as bad as was the carpet bag rule immediately after the Cival War and will no doubt cause more lynchings and racial hatreds than the carpet bag rule, as it is sponsored and backed by the communists of the world, both black and white. The riots at Camp Hill Dadeville and Waverly caused the death of one negro and the wounding of a sheriff and deputy and feeling is still running high at these places which are being patrolled by heavily armed possemen to keep order.

Agriculture-1931
Labor Conditions

Alabama

ARMED POSSE READY TO COMBAT NEGROES

Quiet Broken After Pitched Battle at Church.

ONE KILLED, 5 WOUNDED

One Hundred Men Called Out to Prevent Meeting of Radicals Who Are Protesting Death Sentence of Eight Negroes.

By The Associated Press.

CAMPHILL, Ala., July 17.—Quiet restored after a night of turbulence was broken here late today as word spread that negro radicals planned a meeting in the woods three miles from Waverly tonight and an armed posse was summoned from Tallapoosa and Lee counties.

Word concerning the proposed meeting was meager, but 30 armed men immediately left Camphill for the scene to prevent the meeting which officers said was similar to the one near here last night and resulted in the slaying of one negro, wounding of two officers and three negroes.

Seventeen Under Arrest.

Seventeen negroes, alleged members of the organization, now are under arrest.

Possemen who left here said that probably 100 men had been called to prevent the meeting. At the meeting here last night threats against Governor Miller were made unless he immediately released eight negroes under death sentence for an attack on two girls near Scottsboro, Ala., last March.

A posse of eight men, reported from Notasulga, that they were still trailing a negro from Chattanooga, who for two months has been organizing negroes in this section in what confiscated minute books described as "the Society for the Advancement of Colored People."

Protest Death Sentence.

Chief of Police J. M. Wilson said last night's meeting was in protest against the death sentence imposed against eight negroes at Scottsboro in April for an attack on two girls near there. At the meeting, Chief of Police Wilson said threats of violence were made against Governor Miller, unless he immediately released the negroes, four of whom are from Chattanooga.

The disorders in which more than 200 shots were fired, were precipitated as Sheriff J. Kyle Young, Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson and Chief Wilson approached a church six miles from town where the meeting was in progress.

Ralph Gray, negro, who subsequently was killed, officers said, was on picket duty near the church and fired on the officers as they sought to question him.

Sheriff Wounded.

Sheriff Young was struck in the side by a charge from a shotgun, and Thompson was wounded in the wrist. Gray dropped under a volley from the officers and was left for dead. Later he was picked up by an unidentified motorist and taken home.

A physician who was called to treat him, notified a posse, and at the Gray home they were met with another volley. In the exchange Gray was struck several times and died en route to jail with eight companions who had taken refuge in the house.

The most prolonged battle between possemen numbering 150 citizens from this section and members of the organization occurred near the church where the meeting was held. It was here that the three negroes were wounded.

Two of the wounded were taken to the Dadeville jail. The other one, Chief Wilson said, "went to cut stove wood." Asked when he would return, Chief Wilson said "he has lots to cut" and declined to comment further.

Officers were advised this afternoon by Sanford Mullins, county solicitor for Tallapoosa County, and J. P. Oliver, probate judge, to make no more arrests, but to press their investigation and obtain evidence.

The meeting last night was the second officers have broken up, the first being at Dadeville Wednesday night where a quantity of inflammatory literature was seized.

Chief Wilson said the organizer, the Chattanooga negro now sought near Notasulga, had been in this section for about two months, but the seriousness of his work had not been considered.

"If we get him," said Chief Wilson, "we will break up the organization which has been telling its members to demand certain things and if they didn't get them to take what they wanted.

Better Class Not Implicated.

"The better class of negroes, those who are educated or who have acquired property through industry and thrift, are not implicated, but due to threats against their lives they were afraid to tell officers."

Chief Wilson said that at least 170 negroes were known to be members, as their names were enrolled in the seized minute books and records. "Just how great are the ramifications, we can't tell because members won't talk and those who are not members have been intimidated," Chief Wilson said, adding that officers planned to question those held in hope of getting some information.

"We haven't even been able to learn the name of the organizer," he said.

The literature seized, Chief Wilson said, urged members to demand social equality and intermarriage with the white race, to demand $2 a day for work and not to ask but "demand what you want and if you don't get it, take it."

Servants, he said, have told their employers that "the day is soon when we'll go into the stores and take what we want."

At Montgomery, Governor Miller declined to comment on the threats made against him in connection with the Scottsboro case. His files on this include more than 1,700 letters, telegrams and cables from radical organizations throughout the world demanding the release of the negroes.

The negroes at present are in Kilby prison awaiting action by the Alabama supreme court on their appeals from the conviction of the Jackson circuit court.

The negroes were convicted of attacking two young girls who were bumming their way home to Huntsville on a freight train. They were arrested aboard the train which was stopped at Paint Rock. The protest meeting here is the first held in Alabama so far as authorities have been able to learn.

17 NEGROES HELD IN FATAL RIOTING

Clash Follows Discovery of Radical Group's Protest Meeting.

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 17.—(AP) Quiet, restored after a night of turbulence, was broken here late today as word spread that negro radicals planned a meeting in the woods three miles from Waverly, Ala., tonight and an armed posse of 200 men from Tallapoosa and Lee counties left for that place.

Officers who led the posse said they were going to Waverly, which is nine miles from here, to break up the meeting which they said was similar to the one near here last night which resulted in the slaying of one negro, wounding of two white officers and three negroes.

Possemen who left here said that 200 men had been called to prevent the meeting. At the meeting here last night, threats against Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama were made unless he immediately released eight negroes under death sentence for an attack on two white girls near Scottsboro, Ala., last March.

A posse of eight men, reported from Notasulga, Ala., that they were still trailing a negro from Chattanooga, Tenn., who for two months has been organizing negroes in this section in what confiscated minute books described as "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People."

Chief of Police J. M. Wilson said last night's meeting was in protest against the death sentence imposed against eight negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., in April for an attack on two white girls, near there. At the meeting, Chief of Police Wilson said, threats of violence were made against Governor B. M. Miller unless he immediately released the negroes, four of whom are from Chattanooga.

The disorders, in which more than 200 shots were fired, were precipitated as Sheriff J. Kyle Young, Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson and Chief Wilson approached a church six miles from town, where the meeting was in progress.

Ralph Gray, negro, who subsequently was killed, officers said, was on picket duty near the church and fired on the officers as they sought to question him.

Sheriff Young was struck in the side by a charge from a shotgun, and Thompson was wounded in the wrist. Gray dropped under a volley from the officers and was left for dead; later he was picked up by an unidentified motorist and taken home.

A physician who was called to treat him, notified a posse, and at the Gray home they were met with another volley. In the exchange, Gray was struck several times and died en route to jail with eight companions who had taken refuge in the house.

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Chief Wilson said that at least 170 negroes were known to be members, as their names were enrolled in the seized books and records.

At Montgomery, Governor Miller declined to comment on the threats made against him in connection with the Scottsboro case. His files on this include more than 1,700 letters, telegrams and cables from radical organizations throughout the world demanding the release of the negroes.

The negroes were convicted of attacking two young white girls who were hoboing home to Huntsville, Ala., on a freight train.

Sheriff Shot As Negro Agitator Exhorts Blacks

Communistic Gathering At Camp Hill Ends In Duel; Deputy Also Wounded

Feeling Runs High

Negro Left In Road And Believed Dead Lives; Later Killed By Posse

CAMP HILL, ALA., July 17.—(Friday)—Ralph Gray, negro, who last night shot and seriously wounded Sheriff J. Kyle Young, of Tallapoosa County and inflicted a minor bullet wound upon Deputy Jack Thompson, was shot and killed by a posse of armed citizens, headed by officers, near here at 1 a.m. today.

Gray was shot several times by Sheriff Young and Deputy Thompson about 9 o'clock Thursday night and left for dead, lying in the road near Camp Hill. Young and Thompson went to Alexander City and were admitted to a hospital, still thinking they had killed the negro who shot them.

Dr. W. D. Wood, Camp Hill physician, received a telephone call about 11 o'clock last night asking that he come to a negro's home three miles from Camp Hill to attend the wounded Gray. As Dr. Wood had another call to make, however, he refused to go to the negro who had wounded the officers.

Gray, it was learned, his body bullet-ridden, had risen from the ground, started walking home, was picked up by a passing motorist and taken to the home of another negro, where he waited the summoning of Dr. Wood.

Officers at the Tallapoosa County Jail at Dadeville were notified that Gray was alive, after the call had been received by Dr. Wood, and a posse of armed citizens, headed by Deputies Alford and Ware, went to the house where Gray was hiding.

Arriving at the house, the possemen demanded admittance, but Gray refused to unlock the door. The possemen broke it down. They were met by a hail of gun-

fire from the wounded Gray. None of the members of the posse, however, was injured.

Returning the fire, the possemen shot Gray several more times, placing him under arrest as he lay dying on the floor of the house. He died shortly after 1 a.m. today in an automobile in which the officers were taking him to jail at Dadeville.

Eight other negroes found in the house and who aided Gray in hiding also were arrested and taken to jail at Dadeville.

The first gun duel, in which Sheriff Young, Deputy Thompson, and the negro were wounded, and in which the negro at first was thought to have been killed, was the result of the second attempt of a communistic agitator within 24 hours to organize the negroes in this community.

While Sheriff Young rested in a hospital at Alexander City, the white citizens of three cities, Camp Hill, Dadeville, and Alexander City, were organizing to run down the agitator, said to have come here from Chattanooga, and to cope with the possibility that a larger number of negroes have secretly armed themselves. Feeling was high.

Events leading up to the sheriff's encounter with Bray were related here by Chief of Police J. M. Wilson, an eye witness. Chief Wilson received information that a meeting of negroes was to be held at a church about four mlies from here in the Allgood community. A meeting had been broken up in a different community Wednesday night, a collection of inflammatory literature seized, and several negroes detained for questioning.

Chief Wilson communicated with Sheriff Young and the latter with a deputy, Jack Thompson, came to Camp Hill from Dadeville. With the chief of police they set out shortly before 9 o'clock for the place where the meeting was to be held. When within a quarter of a mile of the appointed place, they met a negro carrying a bundle and a shotgun.

Negro Shoots Sheriff

The sheriff stopped the car in which they were riding and all three got out. Chief Wilson said Sheriff Young asked the negro what he had in the bundle. The negro replied that it was none of the sheriff's business, backed away about 12 feet and lifted his gun and fired twice. Both loads took effect in the sheriff's side, but some of the shots struck Deputy Thompson's arm, inflicting a slight wound.

Still on his feet, Sheriff Young returned the fire, sending three bullets from his revolver into the negro's body. The negro fell and was left for dead, as Wilson and Thompson, assisted Sheriff Young back into the car and drove back to obtain medical attention.

After the exchange of shots on the road, Chief Wilson said there was a volley of shooting from points all about them. Although they could see no one, the police chief said, it was apparent that a larger number of persons in the vicinity had firearms. As the place for the meeting was a short distance away, it was assumed that the volley was fired by assembled negroes.

Chief Wilson remained here to handle a situation which well may become serious, while others were secured to carry Sheriff Young to the hospital at Alexander City. From the hospital early today came reassuring reports on the condition of Sheriff Young. It was said that he never lost consciousness and had a good chance to recover.

Believed Communist Lockout

The negro who shot him was identified as soon as he was encountered on the road as Ralph Gray, who had been present at the meeting on the previous night. Due to the seriousness of the sheriff's wound, the other two did not remain to examine the bundle he carried and it was not determined whether it was a supply of communistic literature. It was believed that he was a lookout for the gathering.

An effort was made Wednesday night to take into custody the organizer, but when officers entered the meeting, he left by another opening and escaped. None of the white residents has been able to ascertain his name, the only information obtained being that he came here from Chattanooga.

After the shooting on the road, officers returned to the meeting place only to find it deserted. Information reached here that more than 300 negroes were assembled at the time the sheriff was shot.

There were many wild rumors here last night and authorities regarded the situation as grave. They pointed out that there was evidence of extensive secret arming on the part of negroes. This was encouraged in some of the seized literature.

Agitator Sought

Chief Wilson was of the opinion that if the communist agitator could be captured, the spirit of the incipient organization would be broken and feeling would subside.

A search for the organizer was obviously in preparation. A large crowd had gathered here an hour after the shooting and it was being swelled constantly by arrivals from all sections of the county. as news of last night's happenings spread.

Most of the white residents gathered here were armed, but there was no indication of an immediate clash with negroes. This was rendered a more remote possibility by the dispersal of negroes who had met in supposed secrecy.

Someone sent to the State prison at Wetumpka for bloodhounds, but Chief Wilson said that this measure could not help in the capture of the organizer, whose identity is not definitely known.

Possemen Hunt Negro Radicals; 17 Are Jailed

Agitator From Te... Is Still Being Traile... Armed Body Of 8 Men

Miller Threatened

Concerted Action In Two Counties To Suppress Movement Is Launched

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Information concerning the proposed meeting was meager, but 30 armed men immediately left Camp Hill for the scene to prevent the meeting, which officers said was similar to the one near here last night and resulted in the slaying of one negro, wounding of two white officers and three negroes. Late tonight there had been no disturbance reported. Seventeen negroes, alleged members of the organization, are now under arrest.

Possemen who left here, said that probably 100 men had been called to prevent the meeting. At the meeting here last night, threats against Gov. Miller of Alabama were made unless he immediately released eight negroes under death sentence for an attack on two white girls near Scottsboro, Ala., last March.

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Death Protest Meeting

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Trio Wounded in Battle

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Negroes Threatened

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Miller Refuses to Comment

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The protest meeting here was the first held in Alabama, so far as authorities have been able to learn.

Tennessee 'Labor Defenders' Object To Killing Of Negro

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., July 17.—(AP)—The Southern District International Labor Defense, with headquarters here today wired protests to Gov. Miller of Alabama demanding "cessation of terror and murder" in Camp Hill section, scene of rioting.

The telegram said, "we demand the right of the negro and white croppers to organize, meet and defend themselves against lynch mobs. We hold you responsible for terroristic actions reported plan against croppers and their leaders."

In a telegram to Chief of Police J. M. Wilson, Camp Hill, the Labor Defense demanded the 'cessation of th'e regin of terror against negro share croppers of Tallapoosa County who are organizing to ward off starvation and protesting against the Scottsboro legal lynching. We hold you responsible for those already arrested and calling off armed deputies. We demand right of croppers to carry and use arms in self-defense against lynch mobs."

New York Organization Protests Negro's 'Slaughter'

NEW YORK, July 17.—(AP)—The International Labor Defense tonight protested against the conditions under which Ralph Gray was shot to death near Camp Hill, Ala. The statement said: "This is a deliberate slaughter."

Gray the statement asserted was on his way to attend a meeting of a Share Croppers' Union which had been in process of organization during the last few months.

"The negroes of this county (Tallapoosa), Alabama, have been organizing against miserable starvation wages," the statement continued in part. "At these meetings the Share Croppers protested the Scottsboro death sentence against eight young negroes."

Agriculture-1931

Labor Conditions.

Columbia, S. C. [illegible]
Saturday, [illegible] 1931

Negro Radicals Giving Trouble in Alabama

Camp Hill, Ala., July 17—(AP)—An armed posse was summoned late today from Tallapoosa and Lee counties as reports spread that Negro radicals planned a second meeting tonight in the woods near Waverly, Ala., in protest against the sentencing to death of eight Negroes for attacking two white girls.

As the result of clashes with posses after a similar meeting near here last night, one Negro was dead, two white officers and three Negroes were wounded and 17 Negroes were under arrest.

At the meeting last night Governor B. M. Miller was threatened with violence unless he liberated the eight condemned Negroes.

A church in which the meeting was held was burned down soon afterward. Officers are investigating to determine if incendiarism was involved.

A posse of eight men, reported from Notasulga, Ala., late today that they were still trailing a Negro from Chattanooga, who for two months had been organizing Negroes in this section in what confiscated minute books described as "the Society for the Advancement of Colorel People."

The chief of police, J. M. Wilson, said last night's meeting was in protest against the death sentence imposed against the eight Negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., in April for the attack on the girls near there.

The disorders in which more than 200 shots were fired were precipitated as Sheriff J. Kyle Young, Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson and Wilson approached the church where the meeting was in progress.

Ralph Gray, Negro, was on picket duty near the church, and fired on the officers as they sought to question him.

Sheriff Young was struck in the side by a charge from a shotgun, and Thompson was wounded in the wrist. Gray dropped under a volley from the officers and was left for dead. Later he was picked up by an unidentified motorist and taken home.

A physician, who was called to treat him, notified a posse, and at the Gray home they were met with another volley. In the exchange Gray was struck several times and died en route to jail with eight companions, who had taken refuge in the house.

The most prolonged battle between possemen, numbering 150, and members of the organization occurred near the church. It was here the three Negroes were wounded.

Two of the injured were taken to the Dadeville jail. The other one, Chief Wilson said, "went to cut stove wood." Asked when he would return, the chief said, "He has lots to cut," and declined to comment further.

The meeting last night was the second officers had broken up. The first was at Dadeville Wednesday night, where a quantity of inflammatory literature was seized.

The literature seized, Wilson says, urged members to demand social equality and intermarriage with the white race, to demand $2 a day for work and not to ask but "demand what you want and if you don't get it, take it."

SHARE-CROPPERS' DISORDERS END

Thirty-Four Negroes Await Trial After Uprising in Alabama

Dadeville, Ala., July 18.—(AP)—Conditions tonight had been restored to normal in Tallapoosa county as county authorities moved to give a preliminary hearing to 34 Negroes arrested on various charges as the result of disorders following a meeting of the "share croppers union," near Camp Hill Thursday night.

Formal charges ranging from conspiracy to commit murder to carrying concealed weapons today were filed against the Negroes by Solicitor General Sanford Mullins and a preliminary hearing was set for July twenty-eighth.

In Camp Hill, Waverly and here the usual Saturday crowd was on the streets, with the addition of some curiosity seekers, but there was no sign of disorder.

A few Negroes, not members of the "share croppers union", identified by authorities as a radical organization, were among the Saturday shoppers.

The disorders followed the wounding of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and Deputy Sheriff A. Jack Thompson as they, with Chief of Police J. M. Wilson of Camp Hill, sought to question Ralph Gray, a Negro picket, at the meeting Thursday night. Gray was killed in a second exchange of shots with officers, after being wounded by the sheriff and Chief Wilson. Three other Negroes were wounded in a clash with a posse seeking a Chattanooga Negro who was said to have organized the union.

Mullins said the Negroes under arrest gave information concerning the organization of the union today. The solicitor general said evidence disclosed that at the meeting Thursday night the murder of Sheriff Young and his deputies who, previously had disbanded a similar gathering here and confiscated large quantities of inflammatory literature, was plotted.

Alabama

Charleston [illegible]
Saturday, July 18, 1931

THE CAMP HILL WARNING.

The deplorable disturbance at Camp Hill, Ala., appears to have been the direct result of agitation in connection with the case of the eight Negro youths sentenced to death in the Scottsboro case. From the beginning liberal elements have made the trial and conviction of these Negroes the basis of severe criticism of the South and radical elements have used the case in efforts to cause disaffection among Negroes and win them to the cause of Communism.

To date it has not been made clear how the South could deal with Negro criminals at all and at the same time escape the censure of the so-called Liberals and the anathemas of the radicals. If a Southern mob lynches a Negro offender, the South is denounced, and rightly so. But if Southern authorities take such precautions as may be necessary to prevent mob violence and make possible an orderly trial after great provocation, the South is also denounced. The presence of the very troops who possibly prevented mob action is pointed to as proof that the trial could not have been a fair one.

Under such circumstances what is the South to do? Simply enforce its laws as fairly as is humanly possible. It would be most unfortunate if the activities of so-called Liberals and Communists in connection with the Scottsboro case should be permitted to influence the authorities in the slightest degree. It would be nothing short of tragic if these activities should have the effect of interfering with progress toward the elimination of mob violence from the life of the South.

The disturbance at Camp Hill no doubt fills the Communist camp with rejoicing. But it should serve as a most impressive warning to both whites and Negroes to be on their guard against Red agitators and it should also cause so-called Liberals who are aiding and abetting the Communists in their nefarious work to ponder their course. In the meantime, the situation calls for both firmness and restraint, and all good citizens will support the authorities in such a policy.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
TIMES-UNION

JUL 22 1931

Outside The Law

The cry of "Communists!" in connection with the race rioting at Camp Hill, Alabama, is a poor attempt to put a new cloak on an old sin of the South. From reports it appears only too obvious that the fighting is between the Negroes and whites and not between opposing sides to a political or economic philosophy.

The trouble is old and deep-rooted, but the current spark of fire is of recent origin. Eight Negroes were convicted and sentenced to die under charges of having criminally assaulted two white girls on a freight train. During the trial it was neccessary to use a patrol of soldiers at the court house. The eight were convicted mostly on the testimony of the two girls, "whose reputations since have been attacked." Protests at the time of the sen-

were plentiful and from many

case now is on appeal to the
e Court, but most people in the
will be very much surprised if the
judgment of the trial court is not upheld. Few cases of this sort are ever remanded for retrial; still fewer are ever reversed. The reason is that the racial feeling penetrates to high places, as well as to cotton farms where the Negro usually gets little of anything except work.

The rioting at Camp Hill began when county officers went to a church where a Negro mass meeting in protest against the death sentence was being held. Two or three Negroes were killed, a dozen or so injured and 50 arrested. Feeling prior to this was none too good because of white resentment of the efforts of Negroes to organize to improve their economic status.

There is no proof of Communism among the Negroes of Alabama. This row is purely a matter of color. Witness the Sheriff's reply about one of the Camp Hill wounded: "He's gone to cut stovewood." He was asked when the Negro would return. "Well, he's got a lot of wood to cut."

This is almost as bad as the Hatfield-McCoy feud, where a Hatfield complained to the prosecutor his brother had been killed by a McCoy. The prosecutor, being of the McCoy strain himself, replied: "Hell, it ain't agin' the law to kill a Hatfield in this county."

We are not attempting to judge the Alabama case, nor to suggest what the courts should do; we are simply pointing out that racial prejudice still endangers fair treatment and that it must be taken into consideration in any case of this nature.

ALABAMA SHERIFF IS SHOT IN RACE RIOT ONE NEGRO KILLED

PROTEST AGAINST SENTENCING EIGHT OF THEIR RACE TO DEATH

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 17 (AP).—Protests of groups of negroes against the sentencing of eight of their race to death in Scottsboro, Ala., resulted in a gun fight with Tallapoosa county authorities last night and today, and one negro was killed and a sheriff and his deputy were wounded.

The sheriff, J. Kyle Young, was said by physicians to have only a slight chance to recover. The negro, Ralph Gray, was shot down in an exchange of fire last night but escaped, and was slain early today in a raid on his home in which eight other negroes were arrested.

Meanwhile a posse of 100 or more civilians and forty officers from hereas Dadeville, Opelika, Alexander City and Wetumpka searched the county with bloodhounds for a number o negroes from Chattanooga, Tenn., wh were described by the local chief o police, J. M. Wilson, as "Communis organizers."

Solicitor J. Sanford Mullins, of Tal lapoosa county, said further troubl was expected.

Some of the eight negroes sentence to death in Scottsboro were fron Chattanoga. They were charged witl attacking two girls who were hoboin on a train. The International Labo Defense, a Communist organization has organized a world-wide protes against the death sentences on th grounds that the charges were "frameup." The case is now befor the Alabama Supreme Court.

Chief Wilson said one meeting wa held here Wednesday night by ap proximately 150 negroes who de manded that the governor free th Scottsboro group. The meeting wa broken up. Last night, he said, an other meeting to protest the deatl sentences was held and this time th negroes were armed. He went t Dadeville, the county seat, where an other meeting of negroes, also in con nection with the Scottsboro case, wa being held and at which speeche advocating social and political equalit were being delivered. The sheriff forces broke up this meeting an seized a large quantity of literatur officially described as "inflamatory."

En route here the officers met Gra near the scene of the meeting an Chief Wilson said Sheriff Youn asked Gray what was in a bundle he was carrying.

"it's none of your business," the negro was quoted as reply.

Then, according to Chief Wilson, Gary opened fire and Sheriff Young and Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson were felled, Jackson, however, not being wounded seriously.

The officers returned Gray's fire and he fell, presumably dead. He was left on the road while Sheriff Young was hurried to a hospital in Alexander City.

Later the officers were informed Gray had reached his home and been given medical treatment. A posse immediately went to his residense and Chief Wilson said they were met by a hail of fire. Returning the fire, officers smashed down the doors, killed Janes follow him until they fall down in a heap. They can't have him! I'll fight for him, because he's mine. Gray, and arrested eight of his companions.

Deputy Sheriff A. J. Thompson reported upon returning here from a visit to the scene of the disorders that the church in which the negroes held their meeting had been burned.

Not Send Troops.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 17 (AP). Gov. B. M. Miller today said he had no official reports of the disturbance and purported radical meetings of negroes in Tallapoosa county and unless local authorities requested troops, he would not send national guardsmen to the county.

The governor had no comment to make on reports that threats against him were made at the meeting last night unless he released the eight negroes under death sentence for an attack on two white girls near Scottsboro last March.

The negroes were sentenced last April to be executed on July 10, but an appeal to the Supreme Court ated as an automatic stay of execution.

During the trial of the negroes last April demands were made on Gov. Miller to "immediately release" the eight negroes or "be held personally responsible," by the International Labor Defense of New York. Since the conviction more than 1,700 protests have been received by Gov. Miller from various branches of the International Labor Defense in this and other countries, from individuals and from radical organizations.

The governor throughout has declined to comment on the protests.

Dadeville, Ala., Spot Cash
Thursday, July 23, 1931

Rioters To Be Tried Before Judge Oliver

Some thirty negroes who now lie in the County Jail as a result of disturbances last week in which Sheriff J. Kyle Young was seriously wounded and Deputy A. J. Thompson slightly wounded by Ralph Gray, negro, near Mary, will be arraigned before Judge J. Percy Oliver in Dadeville Tuesday morning, July 28, beginning at ten o'clock, for a preliminary hearing.

The trouble leading up to the shooting of the officers began on Wednesday night when the sheriff and his force broke up a meeting of negroes who had met at a farm house on the Cooley Baker place South of Dadeville. The leader of the meeting, a negro said to be from Chattanooga, Tenn., escaped. Reports of work among the negroes by both negro and white agitators from Chattanooga were made several weeks ago. These workers distributed communistic literature and enrolled members of the race in their organization. This literature was of an incendiary nature, calculated to bring about serious trouble between the races, particularly between white landlords and negro tenants.

After being frustrated in their efforts to hold a meeting on Wednesday night, the negroes planned to perfect their organization in a vacant farm house near Mary church, southwest of Camp Hill, the following night. Chief J. M. Wilson, of Camp Hill, had been informed about the proposed meeting and had called sheriff Young who took Mr. Thompson with him, the three setting out for the scene of the meeting about eight o'clock. When they reached a point about a quarter of a mile from where the negroes had assembled, they encountered the Gray negro who apparently was acting as a picket for the meeting. In reply to questions by the sheriff as to the place where the meeting was to be held, the negro is said to have replied that it was none of the officer's business. Sheriff Young then demanded that the negro drop his gun, whereupon the negro fired point blank into the sheriff's side inflicting a severe wound and necessitating the carrying of the sheriff immediately to a hospital in Alexander City, from which he has not yet recovered. During the encounter several shots were fired by the negro and the officers, the negro being left in a supposedly dying condition. As the officers left the scene several volleys were fired by the negroes assembled at the farm house.

Following the report of the attack on the officers, a posse of men, led by former Sheriff J. M. Gauntt and deputy Dowdle Ware, went to the meeting place of the negroes but found that they had dispersed. Between fifteen and twenty of the men went on over to the home of Ralph Gray and found the house barricaded. When the officers appeared a fusillade of shots rang out and considerable firing went on between the officers and the negroes before an entrance was made into the house. It was reported that in the encounter Gray was shot. Several arrests were made then and following until more than thirty were lodged in the county jail.

Bonds were fixed in amounts from $300 to $1,000, according to the offence committed, ranging from carrying of a concealed weapon to assault with intent to murder and conspiracy to murder the officers, it having been reported that the negroes had gone to he meeting armed with the intention of killing the sheriff and his deputies if they appeared on the scene.

negro who listens to. them should share the same punishment.

Dadeville Ala.
Progress.
July 23, 1931

Over near Dadeville is Camp Hill. Some outside enemy or anarchist has endeavored to organize the negroes against this government. The negroes should know that this is a capital offense and punishable by death. The negro who shot the sheriff of Tallapoosa county as he was investigating the organization was killed. The cotton belt, so much oppressed by the low price of cotton, is trying to work out its problems as best it can. These problems are worked out side by side with the negro laborers and no outside influence is needed. The foreign agitators should be electrocuted as fast as they are caught and found guilty. And th

Agriculture-1931

Alabama

Labor Conditions.

ERIE, PA.
TIMES
JUL 22 1931

In Alabama

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The ever-ready cry of Communism is promptly raised. Communist agitators are charged with seeking to organize the Negroes. "Ware Communism" is expected to do its usual work of scaring the public into forgetfulness of concrete wrongs and injustices that may be involved.

Immediately back of these Alabama troubles are, of course, the recent death sentences imposed upon eight young Negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls on a freight train. The conviction rested mainly upon the testimony of the two girls, whose reputations have since been attacked. The trial took place in a community where prejudice was so strong that militia had to patrol the streets around the courthouse. Protests against the sentences have been nation-wide. An appeal to the Alabama supreme court is pending.

But the circumstances under which these eight Negroes were convicted and condemned to death are not the only thing behind Negro unrest in Alabama. There appear to be deep-seated economic grievances. It is charged that capitalist planters hold in a state of practical peonage the Negro tenant farmer to whom they advance credit and supplies. Interest rates as high as 72 per cent., fake bookkeeping and false grading of crops are said to keep these Negro "share croppers" in never-ending bondage to the same masters. And there is no redress for the black man in the courts.

Here is a rich soil for Communism. Denouncing Communists agents does not change conditions that fairly beckon Communistic propaganda to come in and take a hand. Communists would be blind if they overlooked such invitations.

Nor can we expect all Negroes to stand firm against Communistic tempters, says the New York World Telegram. We wish we could go all the way with William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the advancement of Colored People, when he says.—

> "It must have been the aim of the Communist agitators to deliberately muddle the matter and stir up trouble. It is a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'Negro proletariat' to the Communist party. They misunderstand the situation and the psychology of the American Negro and of the South.
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> "I am not here opposing Communism as an economic philosophy. I am opposing it as a means for defending those eight Negro boys in the South. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."

Of course, it was the aim of the Communist agitators to stir up trouble. That is their function. And they are likely to meet with some success wherever human beings are conscious of wrongs that the government under which they live persistently and perennially ignores. These Alabama Negroes are not statesmen or political philosophers. It would be too much to expect them, one and all, to turn a deaf ear to the blandishments of Communism. Nor, as we understand it, are the eight Negro boys under sentence of death the only thing these Alabama Negroes talk about in their meetings of protest.

We are out of all patience with the notion that protests can be silenced, protestants discredited and wrongs shoved out of sight by running up the old danger signal—"Communists!"

Injustice is injustice, whether Communism exploits it or not. Because Communism exploits it is certainly no excuse for letting the injustice remain.

Study these Alabama troubles. Find out what the Negro meetings are for before turning sheriffs and posses loose on them. If grounds for protest are legitimate those grounds become no less legitimate, the obligation of government to find a remedy becomes no less imperative, merely because protest may tend to become disorderly.

Above all, break away from the theory that in these United States even wrong becomes right when Communism points a finger at it and speaks to those who suffer by it.

That theory is worse than foolish, worse than illogical. If carried too far it will end by destroying the very institutions it pretends to cherish. Have done with it.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
TELEGRAM

JUL 23 1931

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Immediately back of these Alabama troubles are, of course, the recent death sentence imposed upon eight young negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls. The trial took place in a community where prejudice admittedly was very strong. Protests against the sentences have been nation-wide. An appeal to the Alabama supreme court is pending.

But the circumstances under which these eight negroes were condemned to death are not the only thing behind negro unrest in Alabama. There appear to be deep-seated economic grievances. It is charged that planters hold in a state of practical peonage the negro tenant farmer to whom they advance credit and supplies. Interest rates as high as 72 per cent, fake bookkeepers and false grading of crops are said to keep these negro "share croppers" in never-ending bondage to the same masters, and there is little redress for the black man in the courts.

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Agriculture-1931

Labor Conditions.

ERIE, PA.
TIMES
JUL 22 1931

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Here is a rich soil for communism. Denouncing communist agents does not change conditions that fairly beckon communist propagandists to come in and take a hand.

Nor can we expect all negroes to stand firm against communistic tempters. We wish we could go all the way with William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, when he says:

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"I am not here opposing communism as an economic philosophy. I am opposing it as a means for defending those eight negro boys in the south. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."

Of course, it was the aim of the communist agitators to stir up trouble. And they are likely to meet with some success wherever human beings are conscious of wrongs that the government persistently ignores. It would be too much to expect these Alabama negroes, one and all, to turn a deaf ear to the blandishments of communism.

Study these Alabama troubles. Find out what the negro meetings are for before turning sheriffs and posses loose on them. If grounds for protest are legitimate those grounds become no less legitimate, the obligation of government to find a remedy becomes no less imperative, merely because protest becomes disorderly.

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Alabama

Home
Talladega, Ala
JUL 18 1931

DADEVILLE.

They will no doubt scoff at the idea, but Theodore Drieser, Professor Albert Einstein and others who have meddled with Alabama's administration of criminal law in the "Scottsboro case" have their part in the responsibility for the clash near Dadeville in which a sheriff was shot, one negro killed, a deputy and several negroes wounded. The negroes who have sought to organize to "demand their rights" are victims of false and vicious leadership and are of the more ignorant class. News from Dadeville says that the better class of negroes who have accumulated something and own property have had nothing to do with the organizers of "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People." Our advice to all negroes is to leave severely alone all "organizers" who would herd them into any organization which displays animosity toward the white people, for it can lead to nothing but trouble, as has been demonstrated time and time again. Southern white people and the negroes understand each other and can live in peace and harmony with mutual help when the latter are let alone by meddlers who would use them for motives that are nowise beneficial to the black man. A bunch of people, Communists, Reds, Liberals, or whatever they may be called, have seized on the conviction of eight negroes for assaulting two white girls at Scottsboro, and are using it as a means to further their ideas among ignorant blacks in Alabama.

As man to man they care nothing for the negro and will never have an opportunity to do him any good, and would not do it, if they had. Intelligent, respectable negroes know this, but unfortunately there is a large, ignorant class who do not, and it is to them that the propagandists of racial and class hatred are appealing. Negroes can render no better service to themselves than to report promptly to the Sheriff of their county or the Chief of Police of their town the presence of any organizers who would seek to array them against the white people of their town or county.

TOLEDO, O.
NEWS-BEE

JUL 24 1931

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CLEVELAND, O.
PRESS

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Agriculture-1931

Alabama

Labor Conditions.

Bristol, Tenn. Herald-Courier
Herald Dec 28 1931

Meddling In The South.

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Solicitor-General Mullins states that the Negroes under arrest have given information concerning the organization of the union. According to this information, the organization was begun on June 20 when four white men accompanied by the Negro organizer from Chattanooga arrived in an automobile bearing a New York license tag. After a day or two the white men left and the organizer continued to enroll members, charging each one $5 to join. Members of the union were promised through the organization to "obtain their rights," a larger portion of the crops, higher wages, political and social equality, and intermarriage with the white race.

The whole trouble at Camp Hill, in which more than one Negro has been killed and more than thirty are under arrest, and racial ill feeling has been aroused, was caused by interlopers and meddlers from another section of the country. White men from New York went down and organized Negroes into a union through which they were encouraged to demand such impossible things as social equality and intermarriage with the whites. It was inevitable that such an organization would soon or late bring its members into conflict with the authorities.

And the meddling did not stop when these white men started the organization at Camp Hill and moved on. The International Labor Defense, with headquarters in New York City, announces that it has sent a protest to the Governor of Alabama over the disorders growing out of the share croppers' meeting. With the protest went a demand that all workers, regardless of race, be given their rights. Northern organizations and individuals who meddle in the affairs of the South need to be told to look for something wrong nearer home. And that goes for those who are protesting against the death sentences of eight young Negroes at Scottsboro, Alabama, convicted of assaulting two white girls.

30 Miles from Tuskegee

Afro-American
Baltimore
8-1-31

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He pointed out that neither the Communists nor the N.A.A.C.P. fomented the riots, which were caused by colored farmers refusing the forty and fifty cents a day wages for chopping cotton in the fields of the whites, and instead going over into Georgia where wages of $1.50 and $2.00 a day prevailed.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

JUL 20 1931

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The clash here is more than a dispute over the merits of a criminal case. It is a clash between a modern, enlightened world and a segment of the earth's surface where deep-rooted prejudices and passions hold sway.

Eight human beings will suffer justice—or legalized lynching. No wonder the world wants to know which.

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Birmingham News
Tuscaloosa

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To the Editor The News:

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"The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much," etc. Ecc. 5:12. However, the unemployed is not only idle, but vicious at times, (This refers to all races.)

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Talladega, Ala., July 18.

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.
HERALD

JUL 18 1931

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Alabama

Agriculture-1931

Labor Conditions.

Bristol, Tenn. Herald-Courier
Herald-Courier 1931

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Birmingham News
Tuesday

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ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

JUL 21 1931

The Riots In Alabama

Much more has been written about the riots between Negroes and county officers in Alabama than there is any cause for, perhaps, but publicity may help focus attention upon the "share cropper", both white and Negro, and the rather abject condition of the farmers who depend upon ten cent cotton as their chief means for a livelihood. This is an age of radical agitation, much of which is pointless and uncalled for, and for that reason these rights are not important. The "share cropper" is not interested in political liberty nor social equality and to mention this as one of the causes for rioting seems beside the point. But the tenant farmer is in a woe begone condition. He lives the year round on the most meagre ration, he has no hope and no prospect for economic freedom. Despite the centralization wealth about Birmingham, Alabama is the second poorest state in the union, per capita population. Mississippi, where the "share crop" system has long been in vogue and where it is as well established as the state government, is the poorest. Political liberty and social equality to such people cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, have a very great meaning.

There is no attempt, or very little attempt, to produce anything in the cotton belt farther south but cotton. Large plantations dotted with the homes of the "share croppers" with cotton growing to their doorsteps, with the same routine of farming in vogue today that was practiced years ago offer little prospect of any sort of freedom for the tenants. Their program is onesided and whatever hope they may have for prosperity is removed by the price of cotton and the unfavorable prospects that the price will not be improved.

The "share cropper" who takes stock of his possession and his opportunities under the system becomes, without any urging, a first rate pessimist. Rioting, confined to one locality and at no times as serious as officers have made it appear, is not likely to spread. As ignorant as the great class may be, it is a settled fact that they are able to realize the futility of violence. Educational programs, similiar in many respects to that conducted in this state by Governor Gardner and the introduction of live at home methods in Alabama and Mississippi will do more to elevate the farmer economically, politically and socially than all of the speeches and rioting possible. Certainly the basic industry of this country, the only industry in the nation we could not exist without, is sufficiently well-established to make it possible for all of the workers to live. The trouble is not so much with agriculture but with the methods in vogue. If the tobacco farmer in Eastern Carolina spent nothing for feed and food and was independent of his tobacco crop for support, his condition would be better than it is at present. The same rule applies to the cotton "share cropper" in Alabama. There is little hope for progress toward the goal of economic freedom until the fundamentals have been cared for.

If the disturbance that has resulted in the death of one man and the wounding of several others will focus attention upon the system of "share crop" production of cotton, it will have served an excellent end.

Rocky Mount Telegram

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GREENVILE, S. C.
NEWS

JUL 19 1931

REGRETTABLE DEVELOPMENT

Those negro "Communists" in Alabama who have staged a meeting under conditions of violence in protest against the death sentences imposed upon a group of young men of their race for alleged assault upon young white women, have pursued a course that is calculated to injure rather than benefit their cause.

In the minds of numerous impartial observers and writers both inside and outside of Alabama, there is considerable doubt as to whether or not the death penalty was warranted by the circumstances in the case of these eight young negroes. Effort to secure a calm and unbiased review of the circumstances would be the course best calculated to bring about a final decision that would reflect the dictates of even justice.

The negro "Communistic" demonstration, with its purported threats of violence to the governor and the attendant clashes with the representatives of the law, is quite likely to be fatal to any such objective. Racial prejudices have been unleashed anew and may have the effect of finally closing all avenues of calm reconsideration of the crime involved on the part of the officers of the state. The development is particularly regrettable for that reason.

Agriculture-1931

Alabama

Labor Conditions.

Birmingham, Ala. News
Monday, July 20, 1931

34 NEGROES JAILED IN WAR ON FARM UNION

Conspiracy And Assault With Murderous Intent Charged In Dadeville Arrests

DADEVILLE—(AP)—Thirty-four negroes arrested in connection with efforts of Tallapoosa County authorities to break up the Share Croppers Union were in jail Monday on charges ranging from conspiracy to murder to carrying concealed weapons while the International Labor Defense and Police Chief J. M. Wilson, Camp Hill, engaged in a duel of statements.

Conspiracy to murder and assault with intent to murder charges were lodged against some of the negroes as result of the serious wounding Thursday night of Sheriff J. Kyle Young near Camp Hill while a meeting of the union was in progress. Ralph Gray, negro, was accused by officers of the actual wounding and he was slain, but Solicitor Sanford Mullins asserts he has evidence the meeting was called to plot the murder of Young and his deputies.

This version was denied Sunday night in a formal statement in Chattanooga of Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the Southern district of the International Labor Defense, who said the slaying of Gray was unjustifiable and "these croppers, organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life, were protesting the attempted legal lynching of nine negro boys at Scottsboro, Ala." Wakefield also charged that four negroes probably were lynched during the Camp Hill warfare.

"Every attempt," he said, "on the part of negro and white workers and poor farmers to organize against starvation or against the bosses' terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

He said objectives of the share croppers' union were to prevent food allowances from being cut off, obtain cash settlements for crops this Fall, win a general improvement of working conditions and to fight the conviction of the Scottsboro negroes for alleged assault.

In reply, Chief Wilson denied that any other negroes besides Gray were killed and said Gray was shot only after he had fired twice on the officers and his killing was in defense of the officers' lives. The chief also denied that any attempt had been made to cut off food allowances, as "land owners had to have laborers to harvest their crops or lose them."

The situation in Tallapoosa County was normal over the week-end. Officers express the belief the organizers and members of the union have been dispersed, at least for some time. The union was organized about two months ago. In raids on its meetings officers said they found evidence of organization of a "society for the advancement of colored people" to obtain political and social equality, but this order is not now accused of having any part in the disturbances of last week.

Better Negroes Not Led By Communistic Efforts

The better class of negroes in Alabama are not being led by communistic propaganda and only leadership of the better sort is necessary to prevent spread of the propaganda, it is declared in a statement issued Monday by leading colored residents of Birmingham.

It is only the ignorant masses of the race that need attention, the statement says. Their condition and their ignorance is such, it was said, that they easily fall prey to Communist organizers. A plea is made that the sensible members of the race in Alabama do all in their power to overcome the evils of the communistic propaganda.

The statement in full follows:

In view of what appears to be a persistent effort to spread communistic propaganda among the unthinking masses of our people in Alabama, the undersigned colored citizens of Birmingham and other thoughtful colored persons have felt called upon to combat such an unwholesome and dangerous influence wherever it showed itself.

At first, something like two years or more ago, there were whisperings and rumors of the presence among us of communistic agencies secretly at work to disorganize and inflame the laboring classes of both races in the Birmingham district. Probably, because such an idea seemed so utterly foolish we were slow to believe that it amounted to more than mere rumor. But we later learned that we were mistaken when strangers appeared in Birmingham, held meetings, and advocated doctrines calculated not only to overthrow our form of government but to uproot our very civilization.

No thoughtful person of our race would think of listening for a moment to such doctrines. But every one is not thoughtful. The unthinking person is easily misled by strangers. Thousands were woefully misled a few years ago by Marcus Garvey with his dream of a great African empire. Fortunately, only a very few persons in Alabama lost money in Garvey's great nightmare; but it was because most of our people listened to their leaders and their white friends who gave them wholesome advice.

No argument is needed to safeguard any sensible negro as against the baneful influence of Communism or any other doctrine foreign to our American institutions. He will refuse to be misled. It is the ignorant masses that need attention. Their condition cries aloud for sane and wholesome guidance. They should not be blamed if their ignorance renders them susceptible to the wiles and deceits of smooth-tongued orators bent upon mischief. It merely furnishes another reason, if any were needed, for more widespread practical education for the masses. The blame, we are convinced, should properly rest upon him who artfully contrives to mislead the uninformed. We are lawabiding and believe profoundly in orderly government. We are opposed to all forms of violence, of course. We do think, however, that some way should be found to go after the real offender in such matters and punish him to the very limit of the law. We trust, too, that every man and woman of the race in Alabama, who is able to do so, will employ every opportunity to lead the less fortunate into the light and help them to protect themselve and our country against the insidious propaganda of our common enemy.

Our people are at heart intensely loyal to the country that gave them birth. Indeed, their loyalty has never been doubted by the white people in whose midst they live and work and thrive and with whom friendly relations are being cultivated and improved more and more as the years go by.

(Signed) T. C. Windham, contractor; J. W. Goodgame, pastor Sixth Avenue Baptist Church; J. J. Pearson; W. R. Brown, president local Dental Association; James D. German; P. S. Moten, M. D.; John W. Commons, proprietor Commons Coal & Ice Company; C. M. Harris, president Davenport & Harris Undertaking Company; W. B. Driver, principle Tuggle Institute; B. J. Anderson, dentist; P. D. Davis, president Birmingham Civic and Commercial Association; R. T. Brown, bishop M. E. Church; E. W. Thompson; A. M. Brown, M. D.; E. A. Bradford, president local Business League; C. L. Fisher, D. D.; E. A. Brown, attorney.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
Saturday, July 25, 1931

IN ALABAMA

Immediately back of the Dadeville trouble is, of course, the recent death sentence imposed upon eight young negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls.

But the circumstances under which these eight negroes were condemned to death is not the only thing behind negro unrest in Alabama and other southern states. Some planters hold in a state of practical peonage the negro tenant farmer to whom they advance credit and supplies. Interest rates excessively high, fake bookkeeping and false grading of crops in some instances keep the negro "share croppers" in never-ending bondage to the same masters. And there is little redress for the black man in some of our courts.

Here is a rich soil for communism. Denouncing communist agents does not change conditions that fairly beckon communist propagandists to come in and take a hand. Nor can we expect all negroes to stand firm against communistic tempters.

William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, says:

"It must have been the aim of the communist agitators to deliberately muddle the matter and stir up trouble. It is a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'negro proletariat' to the communist party. They misunderstand the situation and the psychology of the American negro and of the south.

"I am not here opposing communism as an economic philosophy. I am opposing it as a means for defending those eight negro boys in the south. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."

Of course, it was the aim of the communist agitators to stir up trouble. And they are likely to meet with some success wherever human beings are conscious of wrongs that government persistently ignores. It would be too much to expect these Alabama negroes, one and all, to turn a deaf ear to the blandishments of communism.

We should study these troubles. If grounds for protest are legitimate those grounds become no less legitimate, our obligation to find a remedy becomes no less imperative, merely because protest becomes disorderly because of communist activity.

ITHACA, N. Y.
JOURNAL-NEWS

JUL 24 1931

Outside The Law

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The case now is on appeal to the Supreme Court, but most people in the South will be very much surprised if the

farms where the Negro usually gets little of anything except work.

The rioting at Camp Hill began when "He's gone to cut stovewood." He was asked when the Negro would return. "Well, reply about one the Camp Hill wounded: trates to high places, as well as to cotton the Negroes of Alabama. This row is purely a matter of color. Witness the Sheriff's The reason is that the racial feel for retrial; still fewer are ever judgment of the trial court is not Few cases of this sort are ever r er remanded resident of the efforts of Negroes to s not upheld. this was none too good because of white

county officers went to a church where a Negro mass meeting in protest against the death sentence was being held. This is almost as bad as the Hatfield-Two or McCoy feud, where a Hatfield complained dozen or so to the prosecutor his brother had been three Negroes were killed, a doz injured and 50 arrested. Feeling prior to killed by a McCoy. The prosecutor, being

Agriculture-1931

Alabama

Labor Conditions.

Birmingham, Ala. News
Monday, July 20, 1931

34 NEGROES JAILED IN WAR ON FARM UNION

Conspiracy And Assault With Murderous Intent Charged In Dadeville Arrests

DADEVILLE—(AP)—Thirty-four negroes arrested in connection with efforts of Tallapoosa County authorities to break up the Share Croppers Union were in jail Monday on charges ranging from conspiracy to murder to carrying concealed weapons while the International Labor Defense and Police Chief J. M. Wilson, Camp Hill, engaged in a duel of statements.

Conspiracy to murder and assault with intent to murder charges were lodged against some of the negroes as result of the serious wounding Thursday night of Sheriff J. Kyle Young near Camp Hill while a meeting of the union was in progress. Ralph Gray, negro, was accused by officers of the actual wounding and he was slain, but Solicitor Sanford Mullins asserts he has evidence the meeting was called to plot the murder of Young and his deputies.

This version was denied Sunday night in a formal statement in Chattanooga of Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the Southern district of the International Labor Defense, who said the slaying of Gray was unjustifiable and "these croppers, organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life, were protesting the attempted legal lynching of nine negro boys at Scottsboro, Ala." Wakefield also charged that four negroes probably were lynched during the Camp Hill warfare.

"Every attempt," he said, "on the part of negro and white workers and poor farmers to organize against starvation or against the bosses' terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

He said objectives of the share croppers' union were to prevent food allowances from being cut off, obtain cash settlements for crops this Fall, win a general improvement of working conditions and to fight the conviction of the Scottsboro negroes for alleged assault.

In reply, Chief Wilson denied that any other negroes besides Gray were killed and said Gray was shot only after he had fired twice on the officers and his killing was in defense of the officers' lives. The chief also denied that any attempt had been made to cut off food allowances, as "land owners had to have laborers to harvest their crops or lose them."

The situation in Tallapoosa County was normal over the week-end. Officers express the belief the organizers and members of the union have been dispersed, at least for some time. The union was organized about two months ago. In raids on its meetings officers said they found evidence of organization of a "society for the advancement of colored people" to obtain political and social equality, but this order is not now accused of having any part in the disturbances of last week.

Better Negroes Not Led By Communistic Efforts

The better class of negroes in Alabama are not being led by communistic propaganda and only leadership of the better sort is necessary to prevent spread of the propaganda, it is declared in a statement issued Monday by leading colored residents of Birmingham.

It is only the ignorant masses of the race that need attention, the statement says. Their condition and their ignorance is such, it was said, that they easily fall prey to Communist organizers. A plea is made that the sensible members of the race in Alabama do all in their power to overcome the evils of the communistic propaganda.

The statement in full follows:

In view of what appears to be a persistent effort to spread communistic propaganda among the unthinking masses of our people in Alabama, the undersigned colored citizens of Birmingham and other thoughtful colored persons have felt called upon to combat such an unwholesome and dangerous influence wherever it showed itself.

At first, something like two years or more ago, there were whisperings and rumors of the presence among us of communistic agencies secretly at work to disorganize and inflame the laboring classes of both races in the Birmingham district. Probably, because such an idea seemed so utterly foolish we were slow to believe that it amounted to more than mere rumor. But we later learned that we were mistaken when strangers appeared in Birmingham, held meetings, and advocated doctrines calculated not only to overthrow our form of government but to uproot our very civilization.

No thoughtful person of our race would think of listening for a moment to such doctrines. But every one is not thoughtful. The unthinking person is easily misled by strangers. Thousands were woefully misled a few years ago by Marcus Garvey with his dream of a great African empire. Fortunately, only a very few persons in Alabama lost money in Garvey's great nightmare; but it was because most of our people listened to their leaders and their white friends who gave them wholesome advice.

No argument is needed to safeguard any sensible negro as against the baneful influence of Communism or any other doctrine foreign to our American institutions. He will refuse to be misled. It is the ignorant masses that need attention. Their condition cries aloud for sane and wholesome guidance. They should not be blamed if their ignorance renders them susceptible to the wiles and deceits of smooth-tongued orators bent upon mischief. It merely furnishes another reason, if any were needed, for more widespread practical education for the masses. The blame, we are convinced, should properly rest upon him who artfully contrives to mislead the uninformed. We are lawabiding and believe profoundly in orderly government. We are opposed to all forms of violence, of course. We do think, however, that some way should be found to go after the real offender in such matters and punish him to the very limit of the law. We trust, too, that every man and woman of the race in Alabama, who is able to do so, will employ every opportunity to lead the less fortunate into the light and help them to protect themselve and our country against the insidious propaganda of our common enemy.

Our people are at heart intensely loyal to the country that gave them birth. Indeed, their loyalty has never been doubted by the white people in whose midst they live and work and thrive and with whom friendly relations are being cultivated and improved more and more as the years go by.

(Signed) T. C. Windham, contractor; J. W. Goodgame, pastor Sixth Avenue Baptist Church; J. J. Pearson; W. R. Brown, president local Dental Association; James D. German; P. S. Moten, M. D.; John W. Commons, proprietor Commons Coal & Ice Company; C. M. Harris, president Davenport & Harris Undertaking Company; W. B. Driver, principle Tuggle Institute; B. J. Anderson, dentist; P. D. Davis, president Birmingham Civic and Commercial Association; R. T. Brown, bishop M. E. Church; E. W. Thompson; A. M. Brown, M. D.; E. A. Bradford, president local Business League; C. L. Fisher, D. D.; E. A. Brown, attorney.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
Saturday, July 25, 1931

IN ALABAMA

Immediately back of the Dadeville trouble is, of course, the recent death sentence imposed upon eight young negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls.

But the circumstances under which these eight negroes were condemned to death is not the only thing behind negro unrest in Alabama and other southern states. Some planters hold in a state of practical peonage the negro tenant farmer to whom they advance credit and supplies. Interest rates excessively high, fake bookkeeping and false grading of crops in some instances keep the negro "share croppers" in never-ending bondage to the same masters. And there is little redress for the black man in some of our courts.

Here is a rich soil for communism. Denouncing communist agents does not change conditions that fairly beckon communist propagandists to come in and take a hand. Nor can we expect all negroes to stand firm against communistic tempters.

William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, says:

"It must have been the aim of the communist agitators to deliberately muddle the matter and stir up trouble. It is a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'negro proletariat' to the communist party. They misunderstand the situation and the psychology of the American negro and of the south.

"I am not here opposing communism as an economic philosophy. I am opposing it as a means for defending those eight negro boys in the south. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."

Of course, it was the aim of the communist agitators to stir up trouble. And they are likely to meet with some success wherever human beings are conscious of wrongs that government persistently ignores. It would be too much to expect these Alabama negroes, one and all, to turn a deaf ear to the blandishments of communism.

We should study these troubles. If grounds for protest are legitimate those grounds become no less legitimate, our obligation to find a remedy becomes no less imperative, merely because protest becomes disorderly because of communist activity.

ITHACA, N. Y.
JOURNAL-NEWS

JUL 24 1931

Outside The Law

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The trouble is old and deep-rooted, but the current spark of fire is of recent origin. Eight Negroes were convicted and sentenced to die under charges of having criminally assaulted two white girls on a freight train. During the trial it was necessary to use a patrol of soldiers at the court house. The eight were convicted mostly on the testimony of the two girls, "whose reputations since have been attacked." Protests at the time of the sentencing were plentiful and from many quarters.

The case now is on appeal to the Supreme Court, but most people in the South will be very much surprised if the death sentence was being heard of anything except work.

The rioting at Camp Hill began when county officers went to a church where a Negro mass meeting in protest against the three Negroes were killed, and he's got a lot of wood to cut."

This is almost as bad as the Hatfield-McCoy feud, where a Hatfield complained injured and 50 arrested. Feeling prior to asked when the Negro would return. "Well, killed by a McCoy. The prosecutor, being

of the McCoy strain himself, replied: "Hell, it ain't agin' the law to kill a Hatfield in this county."

We are not attempting to judge the Alabama case, nor to suggest what the courts should do; we are simply pointing out that racial prejudice still endangers fair treatment and that it must be taken into consideration in any case of this nature.

NEW YORK TELEGRAM

JUL 24 1931

Southern Negroes, Communists and Scottsboro

By William Pickens, Field Secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

UNDOUBTEDLY the Negro farmers and farmhands who met with the Communist organizers in Alabama had nothing in their minds but the most peaceful and law-abiding procedure—whatever the Communist organizers may have had in their minds.

It is also probable that not nearly as many as one out of ten of the black natives knew that the white men and colored men who were proposing to help them out of the awful condition of "share-cropper" economy were Communists. And it is pitiably true that if any of them knew or had ever heard the word "Communism" not nearly as many as one out of the hundred knew what the word means.

* * *

These Negroes are doubtless innocent of any originally unlawful intention. It is their further misfortune that to their misfortune of being "share-croppers" there should be added the further ill luck of having Communist politicians to come in and mix politics and the "Scottsboro Case" with their simple desire to escape from the condition of being "share-croppers." While there is an ultimate and basic connection between the condition of the share-croppers and the condition of those eight boys in Kilby prison, there is no immediate connection that can be argued in a court of law.

* * *

Taken up together in court or before the executive authorities of the State, the one case will hurt the other.

As a matter of practical present procedure, a "Share-Croppers' Union" brought into court would help to kill the boys or "The Scottsboro Case" brought into a meeting to organize Negro farmers into a fighting union, would help to defeat the union by giving the interested planters and bosses a handy excuse for attacking the meeting. We are not justifying this situation; we are stating it. This is not as it should be; this is as it is. The Communists have their eye on "world revolution," and therefore cannot see a mere detail like this.

* * *

The Scottsboro cases should not be mixed up with "economic revolution"—at least not until after those boys are defended and released.

The Negro "share-cropper" of the South is scarcely one remove from the Negro slave of 1850. I honor the Communists for taking an economic interest in these slaves. I do not admire their sense of time and place. Why could they not have begun in Georgia or Mississippi? Mississippi and Georgia are at least just as bad as Alabama, while neither of the other two States has at this time a "Scottsboro case."

The Communists certainly know how to "lose a case" in court and before public opinion.

New York.

By W. A. D.

Lovers of justice regardless of race will agree with nearly every word in your editorial in today's (July 20) issue entitled "In Alabama."

Too long has every effort on the part of the poor, the oppressed and disadvantaged to protest against injustice or to improve their miserable lot been met with the charge of Communism. It can be taken as an axiom that wherever there is unrest genuine grievances abound. One never sees smoke without fire.

Peculiarly appropriate were your references to the attitude of William Pickens, spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is a matter of record and widely known among Negroes that Mr. Pickens, when the Scottsboro case was first brought to the attention of the public by the Communists, not only wrote the International Labor Defense a letter of praise but sent a check as contribution. Today he is deprecating the interest which Communists are displaying in the wrongs of the Negro.

The position taken in your editorial is akin to the attitude that the brave advocates of emancipation took in 1850.

I wonder what would have been the attitude of Mr. Pickens and the present leaders of the N. A. A. C. P. toward William Lloyd Garrison, Elijah Lovejoy, Frederick Douglass and other abolitionists had they been contemporaries.

The last two paragraphs of your editorial should be pondered upon by leaders of thought in the nation, especially those of the Negro race who believe that injustice can be cured by pretending to ignore its existence while denouncing those who would turn the glare of public indignation upon it.

New York.

NEGROES TO GET HEARINGS LATER

Agreement Reached To Postpone Camp Hill Disorder Cases

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 28—(AP)—Preliminary hearings for 34 negroes held on various charges in connection with the Camp Hill disorders, in which one person was killed and five were wounded, Tuesday were postponed on agreement of counsel for the state and defendants.

No date was fixed for hearings and it will be up to the circuit judge to set another date.

Five of the negroes are charged with assault with intent to murder Sheriff J. Kyle Young, who was wounded the night of July 16, while attempting to investigate a meeting of the "Share Croppers Union," an organization of negro tenant farmers.

Three of the five are charged with conspiracy to murder Sheriff Young, Deputy Sheriff J. A. Thompson and Chief of Police J. M. Wilson, of Camp Hill.

The other 29 negroes held are charged with various offenses, mostly carrying concealed weapons.

In the disorders following the shooting of Sheriff Young and Deputy Thompson, one negro, Ralph Gray, who fired on the officers, was killed and three other negroes wounded.

Although bonds for the negroes ranging from $1,000 down to $300 were set a few days after they were arrested, only one to date has posted bail to gain his liberty, pending a hearing.

NEGROES, PLANTERS AT ODDS ON WAGES

MEMPHIS, Oct. 1.—(CNS)—Further attempts to prevent Negro cotton pickers from going to the fields until the price for picking cotton is materially raised by white farmers, were revealed last Friday when a sign was found on the sorghum mill of M. Hampton, white cotton planter, warning them not to pick cotton.

The sign, scrawled in red crayon on a rough pieec of card board and tacked against the building, read: "Negroes, don't you pick any cotton. If you do the night riders will attend to you."

"Maybe it was just a prank of some of the boys, or maybe it wasn't," Hampton said last night. "I told the boys to forget it and they took the sign down.

"I don't believe that there is any possibility of trouble unless the person who put the sign up starts it. We are planning to start picking cotton Monday and will pay the Negroes 40 cents a hundred pounds."

Questioned about the possibility that the sign was placed in an effort to raise the price to at least 75 cents a hundred. Hampton said that the farmers would not pay that, because they could not afford it.

Reports of the sign warning spread through Rosemark and Covington yesterday. It was reported that two Negroes had been killed. A check at the hospitals and deputy sheriffs of the three towns revealed that no violence had been reported.

Agriculture-1931
Labor Conditions

Alabama

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

JUL 18 1931

Investigate It

Alabama has introduced, in the South, the very latest in big-city violence. The other day, several shops in Birmingham were bombed by racketeers, and now we see where blood has been shed in a "Communist riot" at Dadeville. One negro has been killed, two white men and five negroes wounded.

Five negroes have been "sent out after stovewood," and have not returned. The inference is sinister.

Negroes gathered at a lonely cabin in the woods and began "demonstrating," and speaking in favor of the release of the negroes at Scottsboro who have been sentenced to death.

The trouble is said to have started when the sheriff sought to disarm a negro sentry guarding the cabin. Why should the sentry have been on guard? Speech is free in America, and the negroes were entirely within their rights in meeting and protesting against the executon of the seven negroes at Scottsboro. The mere fact that they were protesting does not make them Communists, although a negro Communist from Chattanooga is said to have been the leader.

The entire affair calls for an investigation, especially the fate of the negroes who were "sent out for stovewood."

We hope that Alabama will seek to bring out all the facts in connection with these "Communist riots." There are too many elements of mystery about it. Many of these so-called "Communist riots" prove, upon investigation, to have been deputy sheriff riots.

Black 'Reds' Fail To Make Bond

Montgomery Adv. 7-20-31

34 Negroes Jailed After Camp Hill Trouble Are Unable To Furnish Bail

DADEVILLE, ALA., July 19.—(AP)—None of the 34 negroes held here in connection with the serious wounding of Sheriff J. Kyle Young, Thursday night near Camp Hill, at a meeting of "The Share Croppers Union," a radical organization, today had posted bond for liberty pending a preliminary hearing July 28.

Bonds were set yesterday at from $300 to $1,000 each depending on the charge preferred by Solicitor Sanford Mullins. The charges range from assault with intent to murder and conspiracy to murder Sheriff Young and two other officers, down to carrying concealed weapons.

Authorities said they expected some of those held, who could, would post bond in the next day or two, but that the majortiy would remain in jail until after the hearing.

Dadeville, Camp Hill and Waverly, scenes of disorder and conditions bordering on terror from Thursday night until yesterday were normal today, with a majority of the population of each attending the regular church services.

Authorities said they believed there would be no more disorder and that citizens of Tallapoosa County were determined to see the law take its course. There have been no threats against the negroes arrested.

During the disorders that grew out of the shooting of Sheriff Young and Deputy Sheriff A. J. Thompson at a church where "the union" was meeting Thursday night, Ralph Gray, the negro who fired on the officers who shot resisting arrest and two other negroes who are in jail here were wounded by possemen.

Solicitor Mullins said yesterday that he had evidence that the meeting Thursday night was called to plot the murder of Sheriff Young and his deputies who the previous night had raided a union meeting and confiscated a quantity of inflammatory literature.

Protests voiced against the execution of eight negroes under death sentence for an attack on two white girls at Scottsboro last March, was "an incident" to the meetings. The primary purpose of the organization, in which a membership fee of $5 was collected, was to force a larger share of crops and higher wages, with social equality and intermarriage with the white race a goal.

Authorities said the negroes would be given a fair and impartial hearing and those against whom there was no evidence would be promptly released at the preliminary hearing.

Chattanooga Official Protests Killing

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., July 19.—(AP)—Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the Southern district International Labor Defense in a statement today protested the killing of Ralph Gray, negro, at Camp Hill, Ala., last week.

Gray was shot by officers after he wounded two officials in an exchange of fire on a highway. The officers were en route to a meeting of negroes near Camp Hill at the time of the shooting.

Wakefield said the meeting was one of share crop farmers who were "organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life." He charged that every attempt on the part of negro and white workers and poor farms to organize against starvation or against the bosses" terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

The statement said negro share croppers had organized to oppose a plan which Wakefield charged was "put through on July 1 by the land owners and Tallapoosa County Chamber of Commerce to cut off food allowances to the share croppers and tenants, leaving them to starve to death."

Police Chief Declares Killing Was Justified

CAMP HILL, ALA., July 19.—(AP)—Police Chief J. M. Wilson, of Camp Hill, a witness to the shooting here last week of Ralph Gray, negro, commenting tonight on a statement of Lowell Wakefield, in Chattanooga, protesting Gray's killing, said Gray was shot "only after he had fired twice at officers, seriously wounding Sheriff J. Kyle Young and inflicting a minor flesh wound on Deputy Sheriff A. J. Thompson."

Wilson said the charge of Wakefield, secretary of the Southern district International Labor Defense, that "any plan has been made here to cut off food allowances to share croppers and tenants is untrue and ridiculous on its face." He said land owners had to have laborers to harvest their crops or lose them.

He said there was no "terror" here and that the only negro killed here was Gray "who was shot by officers in defense of their own lives." Wilson said several other negroes suffered minor flesh wounds in a brush with officers who attempted to arrest them.

AFRO FINDS THE ONLY REDS IN DADEVILLE, ALA. ARE 'RED NECKS'

Afro-American
Baltimore Md

AFRO Correspondent Dressed as Parson Enters Mob Town 30 Miles from Tuskegee.

7-25-31

FARM HELP SHORTAGE CAUSE OF TROUBLE

Whites Needing Cotton Choppers Determined to Make Negroes Work.

50 CENTS A DAY OFFERED MEN, 40 CENTS WOMEN

Expert Spitters Expectorate 40 Feet Across Mud Street.

By MELDON SAULSBURY
(Special to the AFRO-AMERICAN)

DADEVILLE, Ala.—Dadeville, county seat of Tallapoosa County, high seat of ignorant blacks and still more ignorant whites, lies 30 air miles north of Tuskegee Institute, 50 miles from Columbus, Ga., and 45 miles from Montgomery, first capital of the late Confederacy.

Traveling from Montgomery, one covers about one hundred miles of dreadfully tortorous, muddy road and it had just rained. The Heavens had been weeping over the things which brutish beasts had done to dumb animals.

The truth can be had only from the frightened but brave black women whose husbands and sons are thrown into jail.

Before I could announce to the contrary, the news went forward that, "driving a smart new Nash sedan, a preacher is in Dadeville conferring with the white folks." Thus when I reached the colored folks, they were sure that God in His wondrous work had sent your parson-correspondent. A newspaper man never denies or explains, unless he is obliged to, and this writer was at no time placed where he had to, during 48 hours at Dadeville.

The Expert Spitters

I talked with the ignorant white judge of the county court; the viciously snarling deputy sheriff of this county, and several stupid poor whites, and ignorant small shop keepers. There is not one really large store in Dadeville, and no hotel. An eight-room dwelling known as the hotel is the one and only public hostelry here for whites and there is none for colored people.

Here are mud streets, no pavements or sidewalks, but red-necks, the tallest I have ever seen in a flat country, and they are the most expert spitters in the world.

It is a common occurrence to see spitting contests and they can spit clear across these mud streets which are about forty feet wide.

No One Has Seen a Red

I met and talked with people from the top to the bottom. No one has been encountered who has ever seen a Communist in this section, black or white. The communist thing is all plain manufacture. There is no such person here nor has there been.

Here is the story told by a plain black woman who lives not far from the court house. She is far and away the most intelligent individual I met here.

"You see, Reverend," she said, "it is cotton chopping time and the buckra he no chop cotton. For the last two years they paid six bits the day for choppin', that is, they promised but few of 'em paid in full, anybody who worked for them.

"This year they are offering fifty cents a day for men and forty cents a day for women to chop cotton and you must find your own grub.

Gray Guarded His Girls

"Ralph Gray, a hard-working black man, lived just down the road there. He own the little shanty where he was killed, and has been refusing to let his girls and wife go work where he was not wanted.

"In fact, since they been paying so poorly he has been going over the line in Georgia with his family and

leaving the boy at home to care for the pigs and chickens and cows.

Sheriff Doesn't Work

"Last Monday Sheriff Young told Ralph that he and his family was wanted to chop cotton on his farm. You see the sheriff and the judge and all the men up town there in Dadeville is all farmers, but none of 'em works on their farms, they gets the work done by frauding the colored people out of their labor. They lock our men up on trumped up charges, and place a fine against them and then farm them out to the different farmers to work it cut; but the boys and men has left around here, so they ain't enough to do much in that way any longer."

Here I asked about the meeting which was being held Thursday night when the trouble started. She said:

"Yes, sir, I'm coming to that if you let me. Ralph he spoke to my old man about what the sheriff had told him. He said he asked the sheriff if he didn't think the work was worth more than fifty cents a day around here, when the big farmers over in Georgia were paying a dollar and a half and two dollars for the same. And the sheriff he told Ralph that the white folks was not going to stand for Negroes setting prices of labor in Tallapoosa County.

Meeting Called

" So Ralph he invited all the men and boys around to meet down at the church Wednesday night and they voted to not work for less than two dollars a day for the men and a dollar and a half a day for women folks.

"The white folks was eavesdropping the meeting and come in and threw guns on the men and broke up the meeting, this was Wednesday night.

Ralph Has Gun Ready

"Thursday, word come to us that they was organizing the white folks to come out and whip Ralph Gray and the leaders of the meeting. There was no meeting going on Thursday night. They come out, the white folks did, looking for certain colored men to beat 'em up. Ralph Gray had his shot gun and was ready. When they turned into his lane he halted them and the white folks began the shooting, and Ralph shot it out with them.

"You see, Ralph lived on his own place, tended to his own business, was respected, and the white folks here in Dadeville don't like a black man who holds up for himself and keeps his gals out of the reach of the white men.

Lived Four Hours

"They shot Ralph all to pieces, but he lived for four hours. My old man and me staid there with his family and him until he died. He told us that when he asked who it is turnin into the lane, that the sheriff said it the high sheriff looking for that black s—— of b—— Gray, and Ralph told us he answered, 'Well, here I am what do you want?' and the answer was gunshots and he shot back with the only two shells he had in his gun and was too badly wounded to reload."

No Communists

"What about the Communist leaders that have been working here amongst your colored folks?" I asked.

"My old man is one of the leaders and is deacon in the church, and he say they never has come this way, altho the white folks have been inquiring about them for a long time. We ain't never seen no Communist workers, and only heard about them when the scared white folks come around trying to make people say they seen 'em when they ain't."

What this good woman has said squares with all the side-stepping my white inquisitees have made.

What Whites Say

Ask a white man in Dadeville, when the Communists were there, and his answer is: "These here niggers won't tell us jest when they be around."

If the Federal government would look into it, with federal agents from the North, they would find that foul deeds are being done, and humble black men are being done to death here in this neck of the woods, because they want pay for their labor.

Whites Eat Chicken

Incidentally, poor whites who have not had chicken and pork chops for a long time, are sitting before full tables today filling up off the loot taken from the Negro homes after the men have been put in jail, to be kept there until whites can fix up the fines against them and then fix up contracts between county and farmer for the labor of these unfortunate blacks, whose only sin is living on the rim of the Black Belt in Alabama, and raising some food and a few chickens and pigs which the poor whites envy.

Here is the section where peonage is in full flower and one wonders where is President Hoover and why he lets it grow and prosper.

800 Armed

White reporters estimate that 500 colored farm workers attended Wednesday's meeting and that 800 whites were under arms Thursday, patrolling fields, searching woods and roads to arrest leaders.

Every man arrested means another hand who will be compelled to work on their farms without wages. Some fifty are already reported in the jail.

NEW YORK TELEGRAM

JUL 20 1931

IN ALABAMA.

ONE Negro killed, five wounded and some fifty arrested on various charges are the results to date of the efforts of Sheriff, armed officers and posses to break up Negro meetings in the neighborhood of Camp Hill, Ala.

The ever-ready cry of Communism is promptly raised. Communist agitators are charged with seeking to organize the Negroes. "'Ware Communism" is expected to do its usual work of scaring the public into forgetfulness of concrete wrongs and injustices that may be involved.

Immediately back of these Alabama troubles are, of course, the recent death sentences imposed upon eight young Negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls on a freight train. The conviction rested mainly upon the testimony of the two girls, whose reputations have since been attacked. The trial took place in a community where prejudice was so strong that militia had to patrol the streets around the court house. Protests against the sentences have been nation-wide. An appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court is pending.

But the circumstances under which these eight Negroes were convicted and condemned to death are not the only thing behind Negro unrest in Alabama. There appear to be deep-seated economic grievances. It is charged that capitalist planters hold in a state of practical peonage the Negro tenant farmer to whom they advance credit and supplies. Interest rates as high as seventy-two per cent, fake bookkeeping and false grading of crops are said to keep these Negro "share croppers" in never-ending bondage to the same masters. And there is no redress for the black man in the courts.

Here is a rich soil for Communism. Denouncing Communist agents does not change conditions that fairly beckon Communistic propaganda to come in and take a hand. Communists would be blind if they overlooked such invitations.

Nor can we expect all Negroes to stand firm against Communistic tempters. We wish we could go all the way with William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, when he says:—

> **"It must have been the aim of the Communist agitators to deliberately muddle the matter and stir up trouble. It is a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'Negro proletariat' to the Communist party. They misunderstand the situation and the psychology of the American Negro and of the South.**
>
> **"I am not here opposing Communism as an economic philosophy. I am opposing it as a means for defending those eight Negro boys in the South. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."**

Of course, it was the aim of the Communist agitators to stir up trouble. That is their function. And they are likely to meet with some success wherever human beings are conscious of wrongs that the government under which they live persistently and perennially ignores. These Alabama Negroes are not statesmen or political philosophers. It would be too much to expect them, one and all, to turn a deaf ear to the blandishments of Communism. Nor, as we understand it, are the eight Negro boys under sentence of death the only thing these Alabama Negroes talk about in their meetings of protest.

We are out of all patience with the notion that protests can be silenced, protestants discredited and wrongs shoved out of sight by running up the old danger signal—"Communists!"

Injustice is injustice, whether Communism exploits it or not. Because Communism exploits it is certainly no excuse for letting the injustice remain.

Study these Alabama troubles. Find out what the Negro meetings are for before turning sheriffs and posses loose on them. If grounds for protest are legitimate those grounds become no less legitimate, the obligation of government to find a remedy becomes no less imperative, merely because protest may tend to become disorderly.

Above all, break away from the theory that in these United States even wrong becomes right when Communism points a finger at it and speaks to those who suffer by it.

That theory is worse than foolish, worse than illogical. If carried too far it will end by destroying the very institutions it pretends to cherish. Have done with it.

Another Alabama Disgrace

Amsterdam News

LET US SUPPOSE that in 1927 the Boston police had invaded a hall where a meeting was being held to protest against the impending execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. Suppose they had killed one of the protesters, wounded five, arrested fifty others, and burned the hall to the ground. The cry of horror would have resounded through the nation—horror that such a thing was possible in a law-abiding country.

Yet that same thing happened at Camp Hill, Alabama, last Friday. One hundred and fifty Negroes held a meeting at a church to form a share croppers' union and to protest against the recent infamous Scottsboro verdict that convicted nine Negro boys of rape upon the scantiest evidence. This meeting, entirely peaceful in its purpose and conduct, was invaded by the county authorities, who killed one member, wounded five, arrested fifty and burned down the church.

THAT was an outrage, even for a community notorious for outrages. It was committed, not by a mob, but by the very officers of the law whose duty it was to protect the meeting which they attacked. The charge was made that the meeting had been prompted by Communists; but that is no excuse in a country whose Constitution guarantees the right of peaceful assemblage for the redress of grievances.

ADMITTEDLY, it was needless to protest against the execution of the boys, which had been stayed by an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State; but if the protest was orderly the police had no right to suppress it by violent means. Admittedly, the aggrieved Negroes would have been wiser if they had attended to one thing at a time and confined themselves for the moment to the forming of their share croppers' union. But this does not alter the fact that the action of the county sheriffs was one of the dirtiest in American police history.

Agriculture-1931
Labor Conditions

Alabama

Camp Hill, Ala., Meeting of Negroes Invaded by Police; One Man Killed Five Wounded and Fifty Arrested

Nation Aroused Over Injustice of State Officials in Alabama Who Refuse to Respect Rights of Colored Citizens

(Special to The New York Age)

Camp Hill Ala.—The killing of one Negro farmer, the wounding of five and the arrest of about 45 others here in an outbreak on Friday, has brought to light the reign of terror imposed on Negroes in the State of Alabama since the sentencing to death of 8 Negro youths in Scottsboro on a trumped up charge of rape against two white girls preferred by county authorities.

After an all night and futile search by posses for organizers of the Share Croppers Union, Tallapossa County was virtually restored to quiet on Saturday. Sheriff J. Kyle Young was shot and seriously wounded Thursday night as he and a deputy attempted to break into a meeting of the Union at a church in which the meeting was in progress. The picket was killed by possemen and about 50 of the members were placed under arrest.

Charges of assault with intent to commit murder were filed against five of the men and twenty were charged with conspiring to commit a felony and seven were charged with carrying concealed weapons. No charges were made against the remainder.

According to Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the Southern District, International Labor Defense, "the murder of Ralph Gray by Sheriff J. Kyle Young and deputies, and the probable lynching of four other Negro share croppers, by landowners mobs, is an effort to drown in blood the struggle of the croppers against starvation. These croppers, organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life, were protesting the attempted legal lynching of nine Negro boys at Scottsboro, whose death sentences they were denouncing.

"Every attempt on the part of Negro and white workers and poor farmers to organize against starvation or against the bosses terror is met with rope, fagot and shot. These Negro share croppers were organized against the plan put through on July 1 by the landowners and Tallapoosa County Chamber of Commerce to cut off food allowances to the share croppers and tenants, leaving them to starve to death. The CroppersUnion during the past few months has been organizing in this territory for the following demands: that food advances continue until settlement time, settlement to be made in full by cash, giving the croppers and tenants the right to sell crop where they see fit; the right of the garden for home use; a three hour midday rest period."

From New York City, William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, denied that any of its workers had been active among the Negroes of Camp Hill as at first reported in press dispatches and asserted that the outbreak was a "Communist matter pure and simple." He added that the planters of the region were only too glad to have the Scottsboro case injected, as it gave them an excuse to proceed against the share croppers' union.

Communists Accused

"The Communists must have known," he said, "that of all places in the world, the wrong place to begin any Communistic agitation among Negroes and about the releasing of the Scottsboro prisoners would be a place like Camp Hill, very near the prison where those boys are confined. And they must have known that of all times, right now would be the worst time, when the cases of the boys have been appealed and must wait on the action of the Alabama Supreme Court.

"It must, therefore, have been the aim of the Communist agitators to deliberately muddle the matter and stir up trouble. It is a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'Negro proletariat' to the Communist party. They misunderstand the situation and the psycology of the American Negro and of the South.

"I am not here oposing Communism as an economic philosophy; I am opposing it as a means for fending those eight Negro boys in the South. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."

The Scottsboro case is now at a standstill pending the decision of the Alabama Supreme Court. Thus far the International Labor Defense has spent more than $6,000 on it and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has raised $3,000 and expects to spend from $10,000 to $15,000 before it is through.

NEW YORK EVE POST

JUL 20 1931

ALABAMA POLICE, REDS DISPUTE RAID

Labor Defense Charge of Crop Union Intimidation Denied by Officers

QUIET SEEN AS 38 ARE HELD

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 20 (AP).—Thirty-four Negroes arrested in connection with efforts of Tallapoosa County authorities to break up "the share croppers' union" were in jail today on charges ranging from conspiracy to murder to carrying concealed weapons while the International Labor Defense and Police Chief J. M. Wilson of Camp Hill engaged in a duel of statements.

Conspiracy to murder and assault with intent to murder charges were lodged against some of the Negroes as result of the serious wounding Thursday night of Sheriff J. Kyle Young near Camp Hill while a meeting of the union was in progress. Ralph Gray, Negro, was accused by officers of the actual wounding and he was slain, but Solicitor Sanford Mullins asserted he has evidence the meeting was called to plot the murder of Young and his deputies.

Version Denied

This version was denied in a formal statement in Chattanooga, Tenn., of Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the Southern District of the International Labor Defense, who said the slaying of Gray was unjustifiable, and "these croppers, organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life, were prottesting the attempted legal lynching of nine Negro boys at Scottsboro, Ala." Wakefield also charged that four Negroes probably were lynched during the Camp Hill warfare.

"Every attempt," he said, "on the part of Negro and white workers and poor farmers to organize against starvation or against the bosses' terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

He said objectives of "the share croppers union" were to prevent food allowances from being cut off, obtain cash settlements for crops this fall, win a general improvement of working conditions, and to fight the conviction of the Scottsboro Negroes for an alleged assault on two white girls who were hoboing aboard a freight train.

Charges Self-Defense

In reply, Chief Wilson denied that any other Negroes besides Gray were killed and said Gray was shot only after he had fired twice on the officers and his killing was in defense of the officers' lives. The chief also denied that any attempt had been made to cut off food allowances, as "land owners had to have laborers to harvest their crops or lose them."

The situation in Tallapoosa County was normal over the week end. Officers express the belief the organizers and members of the union have been dispersed, at least for some time. The union was organized about two months ago. In raids on its meetings officers said they found evidence of organization of a "Society for the Advancement of Colored People" to obtain political and social equality, but this order is not now accused of having any part in the disturbances of last week.

Smouldering Since March

Inter-racial tension, which flared up last week in a raid on a meeting of Negro radicals at Camp Hill, Ala., and the arrest of thirty-four of them, has been smouldering in that State since March 24, when nine Negro hoboes from Tennessee and Georgia were taken off a frieght train at Stevenson and charged with attacks upon two white girls "bumming" their way after an unsuccessful hunt for work in Chattanooga.

Eight of the Negroes are under sentence of death, imposed in the Court House at Scottsboro, while a crowd of local citizens and mountaineers surrounded the place and armed National Guardsmen set a watch about the prisoners.

Radical groups in all parts of the United States and in Russia have taken up the case, and the angry temper of whites and Negroes in Alabama several times has threatened an outbreak similar to that of last week, in which one man was slain and five wounded.

Boarded Freight Train

According to the State's evidence at the trial of the nine Negro hoboes, the men boarded a freight train in which the two white girls were riding with seven white youths.

Two of the white boys were knocked unconscious, according to the testimony for the prosecution, and the others were thrown from the train. The Negroes held the girls, it was charged, until the freight train reached Paint Rock, where railroad policemen came aboard and arrested them.

Until the trial began, in April, the prisoners were kept in Gadsden, but their arrival in Scotsboro was the signal for the gathering of a mob which menaced the court house and the jail during the trial and after the imposition of the death sentence.

Labor Defense Protests

April 8, after the conviction of the first two Negroes put on trial, Clarence Weems, twenty-one, of Atlanta and Clarence Norris, nineteen, of Chattanooga, the International Labor Defense sent to Judge J. A. Hawkins, who presided, a protest against the "legal lynching" of the Negro prisoners. The judge, the District Attorney and de-

fense counsel joined in exception to the phrase, and the trials went forward. The remaining defendants also were convicted and all but one were sentenced to death.

Meanwhile, the International Labor Defense, through George W. Chamlee, an attorney; the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, a Negro organization, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People took up the case of the condemned men, with the intention of carrying it to the highest courts.

Communists throughout the United States found in it an argument of lesser importance, but along similar lines to their protest against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti.

Russia Issues Protest

Five members of the Academy of Science in Lenigrad found it necessary to excoriate the conviction and sentence, and their comments were published in Isvestia, the official Soviet organ with the addition:

"This act cannot be understood by a man of normal psychology, but anything can be expected from America where such legal actions as those against the followers of Darwin took place."

According to dispatches from Alabama, the Camp Hill meeting, on which the authorities made their raid, was called in part to protest against the Scotsboro cases now before the State Supreme Court.

Little has been reported here regarding the "Share Croppers Union," the somewhat tenuous organization on whose meeting in the woods Sheriff J. Kyle Young and his deputies swooped down.

According to one report, the body was in process of formation, with a Negro from Chattanooga and two white men as organizers. This Negro is being sought by the forces of the Sheriff, now incapacitated from his wounds.

The two white men, according to a report reaching the sheriff, stayed in Dadeville only a few days after their arrival recently, and left the Negro delegate to complete the formation of the organization.

The "Share Croppers Union," so far as can be learned here, was formed to protest against the 60 to 80 cent daily wage paid by the planters and to push demands for a crop settlement on a cash basis, and other terms. According to Jooseph Pass of the International Labor Defense, the Camp Hill meeting was not called to protest the Scottsboro sentences, but to fight what he described as starvation conditions of labor.

According to Sollicitor Sanford Mullins of Dadeville, however, threats of death were made at the meeting against Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama, unless he liberated the condemned Negroes. He pointed out also that no trace has been found of the so-called Negro labor organizer from Chattanooga and that his identity has not been learned.

RACE RIOT LOOMS IN ALABAMA MASSACRE OF SHARE CROPPERS

Coer and Post
7-25-31

ONE KILLED, FIVE WOUNDED, FOUR THOUGHT LYNCHED; 32 JAILED

Cleveland, Ohio.

Plantation Owners—Police Burn Churches, Invade Homes—Spread a Reign of Terror

BULLETIN

(By Telephone and Telegraph)

NEW YORK, July 18.—The southern office of the International Labor Defense telegraphed and telephoned to the national office at noon today that the Negro share croppers of Tallapoosa County have organized their defense corps to protect their families and homes from the invading police and hoodlums who are spreading a reign of terror throuugh that section of Alabama at the behest of the landowners.

The southern I. L. D. office wired Chief of Police Wilson, "we demand immediate cessation of reign of terror against Negro share croppers who are organizing to ward off starvation and portesting Scottsboro legal lynching. We hold you responsible for safety of those already arrested and calling off of armed deputies. We demand right share croppers to carry and use arms in self-defense against lynch mobs."

The southern office also reports by telegraph of a letter from Eugene Williams, one of the Scottsboro boys in Kilby prison. The letter says; "Thet Scottsboro boys joyous at execution stay. I am thankful to be living today. You was right for if you all had not taken part in our case, we woudl been in west hell today and I sure is glad that you all appeal our case for I am innocent and I don't want to die for nothing and I want you all to take case and strut your stuff with it." Leroy Patterson, another of the convicted boys adds, "would of been washing roots by now if not for you."

NEW YORK, July 23.—An attack on the share croppers' union has been launched by the plantation owners around Camp Hill, Alabama in Tullapoosa County, killing Ralph Gray, an active member of the union and wounding many other Negroes. Homes of share croppers have been invaded by the police, led in many cases, by the land owners themselves.

On Wednesday night, 150 Negro share croppers met to formulate their demands and protest the Scottsboro verdict. The police invaded the meeting and attacked the assembled croppers. Thursday night the share croppers called a meeting in a church but two hundred police and deputies again dispersed the crowd, burning the church to the ground. The share croppers' union has been in process of organization during the past few months against miserable starvation wages. The plantation owners planned to cut off the share cropper from all food advances, giving a small number of share croppers the alternative of working in the fields or sawmills at wages of sixty to ninety cents a day. The organized lynchers were after the members and leaders of the union. The share croppers' demands as formulated up to the time of the massacre were: (1) food advances to continue until settlement time; (2) settlement to be made in full by cash payment; (3) the share croppers to have right to sell their crops where they saw fit; (4) the right of a garden for their home use; (5) a three hour mid-day rest.

Protest Scottsboro Sentence

At these meetings held at regular intervals during the past few months, the share croppers have protested the Scottsboro death sentence, where 8 young Negroes, two only fourteen years old and all minors, were convicted on a frame-up charge of attacking two white prostitutes on a frieght car.

Cleveland
7-25-31

Ralph Gray, one of the active organizers of the share croppers' union was on picket line duty in front of the church while the meeting was in progress. When the police approached the church, they opened fire on Gray, leaving him for dead on the ground and firing into the church wounding many Negroes. Four of the share croppers are missing, and when Chief of Police Wilson was asked what became of them, he said, "They went to cut stove wood in the rear and they have lots to cut." The chief refused to comment any further. Sheriff Young was wounded while attacking the meeting and was taken to a nearby hospital.

7-25-31

When the police and organized mob of 400 heard that Gray was not dead, they proceeded to his house, killing him while under treatment by a physician.

Breaking Up Share Croppers' Meetings

Cleveland Ohio

On Friday night the southern I. L. D. office long distance an additional story to the national office in New York to the effect that a number of share croppers' meetings have been broken up by the police at the instigation of the land owners and the situation is growing more acute. Many invaded without search warrants, "homes" of Negroes have been threatening the Negroes if they continue their agitation for a union and the freeing of the Scottsboro victims. Chief of Police Wilson and an organized posse are making rounds of the union leaders' homes ordering them to leave the county.

WHAT THE BALTIMORE EVENING POST SAYS ABOUT THE ALABAMA "RIOT"

Herald
Communist
5-6-31

In Alabama

One Negro killed, five wounded and some 50 arrested on various charges are the results to date of the results to date of the efforts of sheriff, armed officers and posses to break up Negro meetings in the neighborhood of Camp Hill, Ala.

The ever-ready cry of communism is promptly raised. Communist agitators are charged with seeking to organize the Negroes. This is expected to do its usual work of scaring the public into forgetfulness of wrongs and injustices that may be involved.

Baltimore, Md.

Immediately back of these Alabama troubles are, of course, the recent death sentence imposed upon eight young Negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls. The trial took place in a community where prejudice admittedly was very strong Protests against the sentences have been nation-wide. An appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court is pending But these circumstances are not the only thing behind the unrest There appear to be deep-seated economic grievances. It is charged that planters hold in a state of practical peonage the Negro tenant farmer, to whom they advance credit and supplies. Interest rates as high as 72 percent, fake bookkeeping and false grading of crops are said to keep Negro "share croppers" in never-ending bondage to the same master. And there is little redress for the black man in the courts.

Here is a rich soil for communism. Denouncing Communist agents does not change conditions that fairly becon Communist propagandists to come in and take a hand.

Study these Alabama troubles. Find out what the Negro meetings are for before turning sheriffs and posses loose on them. If grounds for protest are legitimate, those grounds become no less legitimate, the obligation of government to find a remedy becomes no less imperative, merely because protest becomes disorderly.

Above all, break away from the theory that in the United States even wrong becomes right when communism points a finger at it and speaks to those who suffer by it.

Alabama

Agriculture-1931
Labor Conditions

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 18 1931

VOLLEYS DISPERSE ALABAMA NEGROES

One Is Killed, 3 Are Wounded and 17 Arrested at Death Sentence Protest Meeting.

SHERIFF AND DEPUTY SHOT

House Is Burned at Camp Hill in Battle With Posse—"Reds" Are Blamed by Police Chief.

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 17 (AP).—A meeting of Negro radicals near here last night at which Governor B. M. Miller was threatened with violence unless he liberated the eight Negroes sentenced to death for attacking two white girls led to clashes with posses today in which one Negro was killed, two white officers and three Negroes were wounded and seventeen Negroes were arrested.

An armed posse was summoned late today from Tallapoosa and Lee Counties as reports spread that Negro radicals planned a second protest meeting tonight in the woods near Waverly, Ala.

A small house occupied by a Negro family near the place where the meeting was held was destroyed by fire soon afterward. It was reported at first that a church in which the Negroes had met was burned.

A posse of eight men, reported from Notasulga, Ala., late today that they were still trailing a Negro from Chattanooga, Tenn., who for two months has been organizing Negroes in this section in what confiscated minute books described as "the Society for the Advancement of Colored Peopie."

Chief of Police J. M. Wilson said that last night's meeting was in protest against the death sentence imposed against the eight Negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., in April.

Sentry Accused of Opening Fire.

The disorders, in which more than 200 shots were fired, began when Sheriff J. Kyle Young, Deputy Sheriff Jack Thompson and Chief Wilson approached the church where the meeting was in progress.

Ralph Gray, a Negro, on picket duty near the church, was said to have fired on the officers as they sought to question him.

Sheriff Young was struck in the side by a charge from a shotgun and Thompson was wounded in the wrist. Gray dropped under a volley from the officers and was left for dead. Later he was picked up by an unidentified motorist and taken home.

A physician, called to treat him, notified a posse, and at the Gray home they met another volley. In the exchange Gray was struck several times and died en route to jail with eight companions who had taken refuge in the house.

The most prolonged battle between possemen, numbering 150, and members of the organization occurred near the church. It was here that the three Negroes were wounded.

Two of the wounded were taken to the Dadeville jail. The other one, Chief Wilson said, "went to cut stovewood." Asked when he would return, the chief said "He has lots to cut," and declined to comment further.

Alleged "Demands" Recounted.

The meeting was the second which officers have broken up, the first having been on Wednesday night at Dadeville, where a quantity of alleged inflammatory literature was seized.

The literature, Chief Wilson said, urged members to demand social equality and intermarriage with the white race, to demand $2 a day for work and not to ask but "demand what you want and if you don't get it take it."

Chief Wilson described the leaders as "Communist organizers" from Chattanooga.

Several of the Negroes sentenced to death in Scottsboro were from Chattanooga. They were charged with attacking two white girls who were riding on a freight train. The International Labor Defense, a Communist organization, has organized a world-wide protest against the sentences on the grounds that the charges were a "frame-up" and without factual basis. The case is now before the Alabama Supreme Court.

Governor Silent on Threats.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 17 (AP).—Governor B. M. Miller today said that he had no official reports of the disturbance and radical meetings of Negroes in Tallapoosa County, and that unless local authorities requested troops he would not send National Guardsmen to the country.

He made no comment on reports that he was threatened with violence at the meeting last night unless he released the eight Negroes held in Kilby Prison here under death sentence for an attack on two white girls.

The Negroes were sentenced in April to die on July 10, but an appeal to the Supreme Court acted as an automatic stay of execution.

During the trial the International Labor Defense of New York demanded that the Governor "immediately release" them or "be held personally responsible." Since the conviction more than 1,700 protests have been received by Governor Miller from various branches of the Labor Defense in this and other countries.

Labor Defense Charges "Murder."

J. Louis Engdahl, secretary of the International Labor Defense, in a statement here last night charged that Ralph Gray, the Negro killed in the Alabama affray, "was murdered by Sheriff Carl Young of Tallapoosa County."

Declaring that Gray was "on his way to attend a meeting of a share croppers' union, which has been in the process of organiaztion during the past few months," the statement continued:

"The Negroes of this county have been organizing against miserable starvation wages. The plantation owners planned to cut the share croppers off from all food advances, giving a small number of share croppers the alternative of working in the fields or saw mills at wages of sixty to ninety cents a day. The lynchers were after the members and leaders of the union.

"At these meetings the share croppers protested the Scottsboro death sentence against eight young Negroes.

"The Sheriff's posse is now hunting and shooting down Negroes in several towns in that section, as well as raiding and shooting tenant farmers in their homes. This is a deliberate slaughter.

"The International Labor Defense protests the murder of this Negro share cropper by deputies and demands the immediate cessation of the terror let loose by the landowners' police against the share croppers who are organizing for better conditions and protesting the Scottsboro verdict."

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

JUL 18 1931

8 Shot in South As Negro Reds Resist Attack

1 Killed, 7 Wounded, 28 in Jail After Agitators Stir an Alabama Racial Issue Over 8 Sentenced to Die

Sheriff Is Felled By Sentry's Bullet

Barricade Forced Open;

600 Whites on Patrol, Many Cabins Deserted

Special to the Herald Tribune

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 17.—A Negro is dead, two white men and five other Negroes are wounded and this community has the appearance of an armed camp following a Communist demonstration by Negroes protesting the death sentence imposed upon eight Negroes at Scottsboro. Twenty-eight Negroes are in the county jail. A posse was formed tonight to track down the leaders of the agitators.

Sheriff J. Kyle Young is in the hospital at Alexander City, his side torn by a charge fired point blank at him last night when he sought to disarm a Negro sentry guarding a meeting in a cabin deep in the wood six miles from here. Deputy A. J. Thompson suffered minor injuries, while in the fighting which followed throughout the night a Negro was killed and five others were wounded.

Coroner's Jury Meets

A coroner's jury today questioned four men and adjourned until next Friday.

Last night there was a constant crackle of rifle and shotgun fire in the wood near Mary, Ala. Several thousand rounds of ammunition were fired by the Negroes and by officers seeking to break up the demonstration.

Early today word reached the officers that the leaders of the agitators had been sighted, and a posse was organized. Sheriff Young was wounded when he stepped from his car to disarm a Negro who had halted the officer and his companions as they neared the cabin. The Negro fired twice, one shot striking the Sheriff in the side. The officers returned the Negro's fire but failed to capture him. They hurried Young to a hospital.

Barricaded Cabin Forced Open

When word of the Sheriff's injuries spread a posse was organized to search for the wounded Negro. It was found that he had been taken to a cabin two miles distant. The officers found the place barricaded. They riddled it with bullets. When the door was forced open, the negro was dead.

The trouble began Wednesday night when two Negroes from another town began a Communist meeting here. It was broken up by officers, and the incident was forgotten until it was learned yesterday that the Negroes, estimated at 500, had gathered in the wood near Mary, Ala., that the leaders were in conference in a cabin and that armed Negroes patrolled all possible approaches.

It was on a mission to break up this meeting that Sheriff Young and Deputy Thompson were wounded.

Sheriff Bob J. Slay of Chambers County and his chief deputy, W. G. Wallace, have taken charge of the search for the leaders of the meetings in the absence of Sheriff Young.

"We have twenty-eight Negroes in jail," said Chief Deputy Wilson of Tallapoosa County, "and want at least five more, including one from Chattanooga, who is the power behind this move."

Chief Wilson said he had learned that in the course of the meetings Communists had made threats against the life of Governor B. M. Miller. The eight Negroes under death sentence were convicted at Scottsboro of attacking two white girls. Several of the Negroes were from Chattanooga.

Further outbreaks are expected momentarily and all available men, armed with sawed-off shotguns, rifles, pistols and other types of firearms, patrol the highways and search the fields. Few Negroes are visible on the streets or in the fields. Many Negro cabins are deserted.

More than 500 Negroes were in or about the meeting place last night. The armed forces of whites is gradually increasing until it is estimated that there are more than 600 under arms.

A guard of more than fifty men was thrown around the jail at Dadeville tonight when police were notified that four automobiles filled with armed Negroes had been seen passing through Alexander City toward Dadeville. The police here, augmented by forces from neighboring communities, were mobilized to resist any attempt at jail delivery. Alexander City reported that the Negroes in the cars had shotguns and had announced that they were going to Dadeville to protest the holding of some thirty Negroes in jail.

Posses Summoned From 2 Counties

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 17 (AP).—An armed posse was summoned late today from Tallapoosa and Lee Counties as reports spread that Negro radicals planned a second meeting tonight in the wood near Waverly, Ala., in protest against the sentencing to death of eight Negroes for attacking two white girls.

A cabin in which the meeting was held was burned soon afterward. Officers are investigating to determine if incendiarism was involved.

A posse of eight men, reported from Notasulga, Ala., late today, that they were still trailing a Negro from Chattanooga, who for two months' has been organizing Negroes in this section in what confiscated minute books described as "The Society for the Advancement of Colored People."

Literature seized urged members to demand social equality and intermarriage with the white race, $2 a day for work; and not to ask but "demand what you want, and if you don't get it, take it."

Chief of Police J. M. Wilson s:.5 five of the Negroes, one of whom was wounded seriously, were shot in an exchange of fire with the posse.

He declined to give names of the Negroes wounded, but said one was in jail here in a serious condition. He was non-commital regarding the other four Negroes. "They went out to get stove wood and haven't returned yet," he said. He did not explain that statement.

Governor Plans No Move

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 17 (AP).—Governor B. M. Miller today said he had no official report of the disturbance in Tallapoosa County, and unless local authorities requested troops he would not send National Guardsmen to the county.

He made no comment on reports that he had been threatened with violence at the meeting last night unless he released the eight Negroes held in Kilby prison here. The Negroes were sentenced last April to be executed July 10, but an appeal to the Supreme Court acted as a stay of execution.

Race Clash Was Lynching, Says Labor Defense Here

Alabama Mob Attacked Starved Share Croppers, Engdahl Adds

J. Louis Engdahl, secretary of the International Labor Defense, last night issued the followir ' statement on the killing of Ralph Gray, Alabama Ngero:

"Ralph Gray was on his way to attend a meeting of a share croppers' union which has been in the process of organization during the last fe. months. The Negroes of this county have been organizing against miserable starvation wages. The plantation owners planned to cut the share croppers off from all food advances, giving a small number of share croppers the alternative of working in the fields or saw mills at wages of 60 to 90 cents a day.

"The lynchers were after the members and leaders of the union. The union demands were food advances to continue until settlement time, settlement to be made in full by cash, giving the share croppers right to sell their crops where they saw fit and right of a garden for their home use and a three-hour midday rest.

"At these meetings the share croppers protested the Scottsboro death sentence against eight young Negroes, two only fourteen years old and all minors, who were convicted on a frame-up charge of attacking to white girls on a freight car. The Sheriff's posse is now hunting and shooting down Negroes in several towns in that section, as well as raiding and shooting tenant farmers in their homes. This is a deliberate slaughter.

"The International Labor Defense, in the name of hundreds of thousands of people, protest the killing of this Negro share cropper by deputies and demands the immediate cessation of terror let loose by the land owners' police against the share croppers who are organizing for better conditions and protesting the Scottsboro verdict. We demand the right of Negro and white share croppers to organize and defend themselves against lynch mob."

Young Ohio Communists Ordered to Disband Camp

Sheriff Visits Them, Objects to Propaganda, Red Bandannas

JEFFERSON, Ohio, July 17 (AP).—A camp of sixty boys and girls between the ages of eight and sixteen and known as the Pioneer Young Communists of America was ordered disbanded today by Sheriff C. H. Blanche.

Blanche said he had visited the camp yesterday and found the boys and girls reciting Communistic propaganda. Many of them wore red bandannas. Two supervisors were ordered to send the children back to their homes in Cleveland, northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania by Sunday and to cancel any arrangements for continuance of the camp.

34 NEGROES JAILED IN WAR ON FARM UNION

Conspiracy And Assault With Murderous Intent Charged In Dadeville Arrests

DADEVILLE—(AP)—Thirty-four negroes arrested in connection with efforts of Tallapoosa County authorities to break up the Share Croppers Union were in jail Monday on charges ranging from conspiracy to murder to carrying concealed weapons while the International Labor Defense and Police Chief J. M. Wilson, Camp Hill, engaged in a duel of statements.

Conspiracy to murder and assault with intent to murder charges were lodged against some of the negroes as result of the serious wounding Thursday night of Sheriff J. Kyle Young near Camp Hill while a meeting of the union was in progress. Ralph Gray, negro, was accused by officers of the actual wounding and he was slain, but Solicitor Sanford Mullins asserts he has evidence the meeting was called to plot the murder of Young and his deputies.

This version was denied Sunday night in a formal statement in Chattanooga of Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the Southern district of the International Labor Defense, who said the slaying of Gray was unjustifiable and "these croppers, organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life, were protesting the attempted legal lynching of nine negro boys at Scottsboro, Ala." Wakefield also charged that four negroes probably were lynched during the Camp Hill warfare.

"Every attempt," he said, "on the part of negro and white workers and poor farmers to organize against starvation or against the bosses' terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

He said objectives of the share croppers' union were to prevent food allowances from being cut off, obtain cash settlements for crops this Fall, win a general improvement of working conditions and to fight the conviction of the Scottsboro negroes for alleged assault.

In reply, Chief Wilson denied that any other negroes besides Gray were killed and said Gray was shot only after he had fired twice on the officers and his killing was in defense of the officers' lives. The chief also denied that any attempt had been made to cut off food allowances, as "land owners had to have laborers to harvest their crops or lose them."

The situation in Tallapoosa County was normal over the week-end. Officers express the belief the organizers and members of the union have been dispersed, at least for some time. The union was organized about two months ago. In raids on its meetings officers said they found evidence of organization of a "society for the advancement of colored people" to obtain political and social equality, but this order is not now accused of having any part in the disturbances of last week.

Better Negroes Not Led By Communistic Efforts

The better class of negroes in Alabama are not being led by communistic propaganda and only leadership of the better sort is necessary to prevent spread of the propaganda, it is declared in a statement issued Monday by leading colored residents of Birmingham.

It is only the ignorant masses of the race that need attention, the statement says. Their condition and their ignorance is such, it was said that they easily fall prey to Communist organizers. A plea is made that the sensible members of the race in Alabama do all in their power to overcome the evils of the communistic propaganda.

The statement in full follows:

In view of what appears to be a persistent effort to spread communistic propaganda among the unthinking masses of our people in Alabama, the undersigned colored citizens of Birmingham and other thoughtful colored persons have felt called upon to combat such an unwholesome and dangerous influence wherever it showed itself.

At first, something like two years or more ago, there were whisperings and rumors of the presence among us of communistic agencies secretly at work to disorganize and inflame the laboring classes of both races in the Birmingham district. Probably, because such an idea seemed so utterly foolish we were slow to believe that it amounted to more than mere rumor. But we later learned that we were mistaken when strangers appeared in Birmingham, held meetings, and advocated doctrines calculated not only to overthrow our form of government but to uproot our very civilization.

No thoughtful person of our race would think of listening for a moment to such doctrines. But every one is not thoughtful. The unthinking person is easily misled by strangers. Thousands were woefully misled a few years ago by Marcus Garvey with his dream of a great African empire. Fortunately, only a very few persons in Alabama lost money in Garvey's great nightmare; but it was because most of our people listened to their leaders and their white friends who gave them wholesome advice.

No argument is needed to safeguard any sensible negro as against the baneful influence of Communism or any other doctrine foreign to our American institutions. He will refuse to be misled. It is the ignorant masses that need attention. Their condition cries aloud for sane and wholesome guidance. They should not be blamed if their ignorance renders them susceptible to the wiles and deceits of smooth-tongued orators bent upon mischief. It merely furnishes another reason, if any were needed, for more widespread practical education for the masses. The blame, we are convinced, should properly rest upon him who artfully contrives to mislead the uninformed. We are lawabiding and believe profoundly in orderly government. We are opposed to all forms of violence of course. We do think, however that some way should be found to go after the real offender in such matters and punish him to the very limit of the law. We trust, too, that every man and woman of the race in Alabama, who is able to do so, will employ every opportunity to lead the less fortunate into the light and help them to protect themselves and our country against the insidious propaganda of our common enemy.

Our people are at heart intensely loyal to the country that gave them birth. Indeed, their loyalty has never been doubted by the white people in whose midst they live and work and thrive and with whom friendly relations are being cultivated and improved more and more as the years go by.

(Signed) T. C. Windham, contractor; J. W. Goodgame, pastor Sixth Avenue Baptist Church; J. J. Pearson; W. R. Brown, president local Dental Association; James D. German; P. S. Moten, M. D.; John W. Commons, proprietor Commons Coal & Ice Company; C. M. Harris, president Davenport & Harris Undertaking Company; W. B. Driver, principle Tuggle Institute; B. J. Anderson, dentist; P. D. Davis, president Birmingham Civic and Commercial Association; R. T. Brown, bishop M. E. Church; E. W. Thompson; A. M. Brown, M. D.; E. A. Bradford, president local Business League; C. L. Fisher, D. D.; E. A. Brown, attorney.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE
JUL 19 1931

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Reports of race rioting in Alabama, following suppression of protest meetings against the death sentences imposed on eight Negroes at Scottsboro, suggest real cause for alarm. The danger lies even more in the attitude of the police authorities than in the dynamite always associated with the race issue in American communities.

The Scottsboro sentences are before the Alabama Supreme Court on appeal. Undoubtedly Communists have endeavored to exploit the case for their own violent ends; undoubtedly also the record of the case suggests something less than to get stove wood and haven't returned yet" and fails to explain the cryptic statement.

Events of this kind belong to the realm of gangdom, not to the resources of the law. so the impartial scales of justice. It would seem to us that

Chief of Police J. M. Wilson s[illegible]
five of the Negroes, one of whom was
wounded seriously, were shot in an
exchange of fire with the posse.

He declined to give names of the
Negroes wounded, but said one was
in jail here in a serious condition.
He was non-commital regarding the
other four Negroes. "They went out
to get stove wood and haven't re-
turned yet," he said. He did not ex-
plain that statement.

Governor Plans No Move

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 17 (AP).—
Governor B. M. Miller today said he
had no official report of the disturbance
in Tallapoosa County, and unless local
authorities requested troops he would
not send National Guardsmen to the
county.

He made no comment on reports that
he had been threatened with violence
at the meeting last night unless he re-
leased the eight Negroes held in Kilby
prison here. The Negroes were sen-
tenced last April to be executed July
10, but an appeal to the Supreme Court
acted as a stay of execution.

Race Clash Was Lynching, Says Labor Defense Here

Alabama Mob Attacked Starved Share Croppers, Englahl Adds

J. Louis Engdahl, secretary of the International Labor Defense, last night issued the followir statement on the killing of Ralph Gray, Alabama Ngero:

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in Alabama, who is able to do so,
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lead the less fortunate into the light
and help them to protect themselves
and our country against the insidious
propaganda of our common enemy.

Our people are at heart intensely
loyal to the country that gave them
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(Signed) T. C. Windham, contrac-
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Alabama Negroes have a right to organize meet-
ings of protest; that wise police officers would let
them talk. Apparently, in Tallapoosa County, Ala.,
the sheriffs have been breaking up such
meetings on the theory that they constituted a
prima facie menace to the public peace.

After one of these meetings a sheriff met a
Negro with a bundle. Those accompanying him
say that the Negro fired first. At any rate both
Negro and sheriff were wounded. The Negro is dead
today and the sheriff is in the hospital. The church
where the meetings were held has burned to the
ground, and four other Negroes, wounded by po-
lice fire, seem to be mysteriously missing. The
chief of police of Camp Hill says "They went out
to get stove wood and haven't returned yet" and
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NEW YORK
HERALD-TRIBUNE

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Agriculture-1931
Labor Conditions

Alabama

BRONX HOME NEWS

JUL 19 1931

Alabama Attack on Colored Group Protested by Baldwin in Telegram to Governor Miller

Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in this city, yesterday forwarded a telegram to Gov. B. M. Miller, of Alabama, protesting against the killing of a colored man and the arrest of many others in an outbreak at Camp Hill, Ala., on Friday, and urging him to instruct his subordinates "to respect the rights of Negroes."

At the same time the International Labor Defense announced that it had ordered its southern office at Chattanooga to investigate the matter, and that it would provide legal defense for the 32 colored persons now under arrest at Camp Hill. Simultaneous with this activity, the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People roundly condemned Communists as having stirred up the outbreak in "a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called Negro proletariat to the Communist party."

The two prime factors behind the outbreak, it is generally agreed, is, first, the rapidly growing protests against the intended executions of eight colored men for an alleged attack on two white girls in Scottsboro, Ala., and second, the attempt of poor colored tenant farmers to form a union.

Scottsboro Case Big Issue

The Scottsboro case has been occasion for many Communist demonstrations both here and in the South, and both the International Labor Defense and the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People have raised funds to appeal the case in the higher courts.

Ten attorneys, headed by General George W. Chamlee, of Chattanooga, it is said, are now working on the Scottsboro case at the behest of the International Labor Defense, and these will also defend the 32 men under arrest at Camp Hill. J. Louis Engdahl, secretary of a Communist organization in this city, denied that the Communists was attempting to unionize the tenant farmers.

Engdahl charged that police invaded a meeting of 150 tenant farmers at Camp Hill on Wednesday night, after they had gathered to protest the Scottsboro verdict, and attacked the assemblage. The following night, he said, the farmers called a meeting in a church, but 200 police and deputies agai dispersed the gathering and burne the church to the ground.

The Communist secretary also also charged that tenant farmers attempts to organize has been the subject of numerous attacks by police, who have invaded homes and in many instances have been led by the plantation owners themselves.

NEW YORK SUN

JUL 18 1931

CHARGE NEGRO PLOT TO KILL SHERIFF

Alabama Authorities Report on Dadeville Shooting.

DADEVILLE Ala., July 18 (A. P.).—Solicitor Sanford Mullins said today that an investigation has shown that the formation of a plot to kill Sheriff J. Kyle Young was one object of the meeting held by Negro radicals near here on Thursday night that led to clashes with posses in which one man was slain and five were wounded and sixty arrested.

Another motive for the meeting was to protest against the death sentences imposed on eight Negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., last spring, for attacking two white girl hoboes on a freight train. The authorities say they have evidence that those at the meeting threatened Gov. B. M. Miller with violence unless he liberated the condemned Negroes.

Sheriff Young was shot and seriously wounded as he and a deputy sheriff attempted to question a Negro picket at a church in which the meeting was in progress. The picket was later killed by other deputies.

Charges of assault with intent to commit murder were preferred today against five of the Negroes arrested and imprisoned here. Twenty were charged with conspiring to commit a felony and seven were charged with carrying concealed weapons. No charges have been made against the others.

NEW YORK EVE POST

JUL 18 1931

NEGRO RED PLOT BLAMED FOR RIOT

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 18 (AP).—Solicitor Sanford Mullins said today an investigation has disclosed that a plot to kill Sheriff J. Kyle Young was one objective of a meeting held by Negro radicals near here Thursday night that led to clashes with posses in which one man was slain, five wounded and sixty arrested.

Another motive for the meeting was to protest death sentences imposed on eight Negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., last spring, after they were convicted of attacking two white girls. Officials say they have evidence those at the meeting threatened Governor B. M. Miller with violence unless he liberated the condemned Negroes.

Sheriff Young was shot and seriously wounded as he attempted to question a Negro picket at a church in which the meeting was in progress.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 19 1931

FINDS PLOT TO KILL ALABAMA SHERIFF

Dadeville Solicitor Questions 66 Negroes Rounded Up by Posses After Shooting.

ARMED MEN GUARD ROADS

Organizations Here Protest to Governor Miller Against Action of State Officers.

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 18 (AP).—An investigation has disclosed a plot to kill Sheriff J. Kyle Young as one objective of a meeting held by Negro radicals near here Thursday night, that led to clashes with posses in which one man was slain, five were wounded and sixty arrested, according to Solicitor Sanford Mullins.

Another motive for the meeting was to protest the death sentences imposed on eight Negroes at Scottsboro after they were convicted of attacking two white girls riding as hoboes on a freight train. Officials say they have evidence those at the meeting threatened Governor B. M. Miller with violence unless he liberated the condemned Negroes.

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Solicitor Mullins said he learned from questioning the Negroes that they called their organization "the Share Croppers Union," but that all efforts to establish the identity of the Negro organizer from Chattanooga, Tenn., who escaped a posse yesterday, had failed.

"One of the Negroes told me that two months ago four white men and the Negro from Chattanooga arrived here in an automobile to begin the organization," Solicitor Mullins said, "and after a day or two the white men departed, leaving the Negro to complete the organization.

"There is no doubt in my mind that if the Sheriff and his deputies had not exchanged shots with the picket they would have been murdered on arrival at the church," the Solicitor said.

Tension in Dadeville had relaxed today and the usual Saturday crowd, except for an absence of Negroes, was on the streets. Business, however, was at a standstill, as the crowds were mostly curiosity seekers.

Quiet Restored at Camp Hill.

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 18 (AP).—After a night of futile combing of the woods by armed possemen to round up organizers and members of "the Society for the Advancement of Colored People," Tallapoosa County was practically restored to quiet today.

A scheduled meeting of the society last night in the woods near here did not take place, so far as 200 possemen could discover. Other possemen were unable to find any trace of a reported invasion by armed Communists from Chattanooga, Tenn., but all roads leading from there were guarded throughout the night.

Officials this morning expressed the opinion the Negroes active in the society had taken to the woods and would remain in hiding for at least a few weeks. The community settled down to a program of "watchful waiting."

The society, organized within the last two months, has been holding meetings to protest the sentencing to death of eight Negroes in Scottsboro. Officials say there are 170 known members in this vicinity.

Protest Sent to Governor Miller.

A protest against the interference of the State's officers in private meetings of Negroes was forwarded to Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama yesterday by Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, according to an announcement from the headquarters of that organization.

In a telegram Mr. Baldwin urged that a thorough investigation be made into the action of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and an armed posse against two gatherings of Negro tenant-farmers in Tallapoosa County and that an executive order be issued to the State's officers "to respect the rights of Negroes."

"We submit that breaking up private meetings by armed officers is a violation of the rights they have sworn to protect," Mr. Baldwin declared in his message. "All subsequent troubles seem to have been due to that lawless abuse of power. This seems to us the central issue at the bottom of tragic disorders."

The following protest was telegraphed to Governor Miller by J. Louis Engdahl, general secretary of International Labor Defense:

"International Labor Defense protests the deliberate murder of Gray by landowners' police, the wounding of many Negro workers and the jailing of thirty-two. We demand safety from lynching for arrested Negroes. Press reports Chief of Police Wilson saying in reference to four missing Negroes that 'they went out to cut stove wood and have lots to cut,' refusing any further information. Demand the whereabouts of these four workers.

"Terror let loose by plantation owners against share croppers and their union must cease. We demand for all workers, black and white, the right of assembly and free speech to organize unions and protests against unbearable conditions and discrimination because of color."

Denies Communist Affiliation.

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, issued a statement last night concerning the riots in Tallapoosa County, Ala., in part as follows:

"I am certain that the meeting broken up at Camp Hill, Ala., was not one of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The organization has no connection whatever with the Communists. Instead, it has been a target recently of vicious Communist attacks and misrepresentations. We have feared trouble because of the manner in which the Communists have made bombastic and empty threats in the Scottsboro cases.

"The association has retained distinguished counsel to defend the nine Negro boys recently tried at Scottsboro, eight of them, all minors, having been sentenced to die.

"We believe them innocent, after careful investigation by two members of our staff.

"We are investigating the present outbreak and will do everything in our power to protect from mob violence those who are being attacked."

AN "UPRISING"

REPORTS from Alabama to the northern press on an "uprising" in Tallapoosa county say that citizens of color had a meeting in which they threatened to kill the governor and were distributing literature which declared for "social equality." In the southern papers no such reports are found. Defender

The trouble in Alabama goes back to March of this year. It was then determined in Alabama to prohibit Negroes from holding meetings, except on Sunday and lodge night. They were not to talk wages and must not protest industrial slavery. They were to keep out of the government and be mules in a mule state. Northern newspapers, even those as intelligent as the Chicago Tribune, printed the libel on innocent men because the Associated Press underwrote it. 7-25-31

In the South it was a communist rally and a Scottsboro protest, according to the southern press. In the North, where the Negro may still claim a championship or two, it was social equality, white women and the marriage altar. The South is organized that way, and the press vehicles are organized with it. Hit a Negro with a white woman and everybody hurrahs. The South is cute and running over with guile. Chicago Ill

The murdered Gray had set out to organize his kinsmen on the doctrine of industrial freedom. Freedom in Tallapoosa county, or Elmore or Lee, all sisters with Montgomery and Macon, is white and rowdy. Black men are supposed only to pick cotton, join a Negro chorus to sing plantation melodies, grin when the sheriff rides up and opens their grip. They must meet on a pass and radio the speeches.

The "uprising" over the Scottsboro verdict against eight youths sentenced to die consisted in some one declaring that it was a rotten deal. In Alabama the rule is that nothing white can be rotten. The Negroes there are not angels, but Gabriel hasn't engaged the sheriffs. Governor Miller knows as much, else an eloquent voice accustomed to ranging the state would not have sunk to a murmur when he heard of the new Nat Turner.

The Alabama situation is not a social equality one. It is not Scottsboro. The southern press, allies of the Associated Press, knows this to be true, but it has the North going after 60 years effort. Some Negroes may look with favor on white women and some have married them, but millions love freedom. Nowhere in the South, since the matter is up again, do Colored men linger over the thought of intermarriage.

They linger over that of white men raping Colored girls under protection of the age of consent law. They linger over the thought that they are helpless before public opinion. They can do nothing about it, but they linger over the thought of the state of Alabama becoming a partner in the effort to prohibit free assembly among them and shut off a free press from them. The "uprising" in Tallapoosa is late. If Negroes had organized the new life over the dead one after the Alabama constitutional convention had put them in the new slavery "uprisings" would have been more frequent.

The southern white man justifies his case in oppression by the "social equality plea." The Negro says he doesn't want it. White stupidity says he can't have it. All the while we have it in the law. There is neither inferior nor superior in our social system. A man may choose his own company, but his choice is his equal, whatever he looks like or whatever may be the background.

More than ever Negroes will now meet in Alabama to discuss other matters than heaven. Sheriffs will continue to ride and bully. More "uprisings" will occur but unless reports to northern newspapers color the scheme they won't be violent and they won't be to take white women in marriage or have them out of it. The Negro South has no direction unless he enrolls under the jacklegs. But he knows freedom from slavery. And his acquaintance with sheriffs and deps is intimate.

The white North should be patient with the southern Negro. It should jump to no hasty conclusion when he is reported on. It should keep in mind his status and the brutal conditions under which he lives. It should remember how he came into life and how those who now raise the cry of "social equality" as the smoke screen took no rest until he had no equality of any kind in law.

The crime against conscience is not that the American South, as led by the criminals banded together as a political party, oppresses a helpless people, but that the North, the only decent and responsible leadership of our country, sees it done and offers no resistance.

The Negro in Alabama may turn communist. We think not, although it is in the blood of man to be something in the state. He can't be a Democrat and is afraid to be Republican and the Pops died out under the power of Oates and Forney Johnston. Whatever he is in Alabama, he has no vote and can have no voice, except in protest by motion or petition. If a Negro turns communist in Alabama, or in Massachusetts, he is driven to his new allegiance by a despair he can hardly longer control.

If robbery of 10,000,000 people of the right of ballot in a ballot country and of the right to be manly in the land of manhood wouldn't drive them to an "uprising" nothing could. If it didn't start the Negro to thinking, he wouldn't be human. If it failed to heat up his language, he couldn't be indignant. If it brought from him no protest he could not claim to know the status of a freeman from that of a slave.

Why any Negro remains South, why he attempts freedom in a land that has never known it, nor never will, no philosophy as yet has explained, but while he is there, and until he can put Egypt behind him, he should have a square deal at the North. Inch by inch the Negro South has been reduced to slavery, first political, afterwards industrial, then social and now economic.

His leadership is a "white" one, whether he accepts it from his own or from the sheriff crowd. He is helpless and almost hopeless. He is not after white women. White men, not white women, have indicted him of this pursuit when he is guilty only of fighting to get up into American manhood. The 15th amendment is null and void in Alabama. The 14th is remembered there only in the breach. The 13th is but a scrap of paper.

The South asked to have the Negro turned over to it. It got what it asked for. It got the Negro back and, as in the years before 1865, the Negro is again a pitiable slave. If he doesn't speak against his chains he deserves them.

Quiet Prevails Again After Race Riots

Camp Hill, Ala., July 18—After nearly 48 hours of excitement and turbulence, Tallapoosa county was was quiet today, with 32 members of a Negro radical association held in the Dadeville jail on charges of suspicion.

Posses, at times numbering more than 200, who searched the county for organizers and members of the Negro radical society that threatened the life of Governor Miller after Sheriff Kyle Young was wounded, had disbanded today, although a few remained to watch for signs of danger.

After Sheriff Young and Deputy Jack Thompson had been shot while they were trying to question Ralph Gray, Negro, who was subsequently slain Thursday night, more than 60 members of the society were arrested, but a number were later released .

No Meeting Held

A scheduled meeting of the society last night failed to materialize. The society, organized within the last two months, has been holding meetings to protest against the death sentence of eight Negroes, convicted of attacking two white girls at Scottsboro.

Three Negroes were wounded by the possemen, and one of the wounded Negroes had not been accounted for today.

Activities of the Tallapoosa county officials today were protested by the International Labor Defense association as "slaughter and terror."

Sheriff Hit In Side

Sheriff Young was struck in the side by a charge from a shot gun, and Thompson was wounded in the wrist. Gray droped under a volley from the officers and was left for dead. Later he was picked up by an unidentified motorist and taken home.

A physician who was called to treat him, notified a posse, and at the Gray home they were met with another volley. In the exchange Gray was struck several times and died en route to jail with eight companions who had taken refuge in the house.

The most prolonged battle between possemen numbering 150 citizens from the section and members of the organization occurred near the church where the meeting was held. It was here that the three Negroes were wounded.

Two of the wounded were taken to the Dadeville jail. The other one, Police Chief J. M. Wilson said, went to cut stove wood. Asked when he would return, Chief Wilson said, "he has lots to cut" and declined to comment further.

Advised To Investigate

Officers were advised yesterday by Sanford Mullins, county solicitor for Tallapoosa county, and J. P. Oliver, probate judge, to make no more arrests, but to press their investigation and obtain evidence.

Chief Wilson said the oragnizer, the Chattanooga Negro now sought near Notasulga, had been in this section about two months, but the seriousness of his work had not been considered.

Chief Wilson said that at least 170 Negroes were known to be members, as their names were enrolled in the seized minute books and records. "Just how great are the ramifications, we can't tell because members won't talk and those who are not members have been intimidated," Chief Wilson said.

Agriculture-1931
Labor Conditions

Alabama

War In Alabama

ALABAMA has apparently declared war on all race sympathizers of the eight Negro youths who stand convicted of assault on two white girls, "hoboes" on a freight train, and who are now awaiting the disposition of their appeal to the State Supreme Court. This unheard of spectacle has aroused national resentment because of the questionable nature of the charges and because mob hysteria dominated the trial of these boys, which amounted to nothing short of a legal lynching. Journal & Guide

Matters have been highly complicated on account of the fact that the International Labor Defense (Communistic), has interested itself in the defense of these boys and has succeeded in stirring up a great deal of feeling which would not otherwise have been aroused. The color of these defendants is sufficient handicap, without the added burden of Communism. 7-25-31

The Associated Press reports that now a race war is being waged in Tallapoosa and Lee counties precipitated by the authorities in their endeavor to prevent the holding of protest meetings. At this writing one Negro is reported dead and no one knows how many more; a sheriff and deputy wounded, several Negroes wounded, and thirty four arrested and facing charges ranging from conspiracy to commit murder to carrying concealed weapons. According to officials of Tallapoosa County, as reported by the Associated Press, "It all began when they learned that a group of about 150 Negroes were meeting last night to protest against the death sentence for the eight boys . . . . They learned that at the meeting threats were made against the life of Governor Miller, unless he released the boys." After the posse had broken up the meeting and scattered the crowd, the church in which the meeting was being held was burned. The Associated Press reports further that similar meetings were held at other points and at one the literature seized urged members to "demand social equality, and intermarriage with the white race," to demand $2 a day for work and not to ask but "demand what you want and if you don't get it, take it." Norfolk, Va

At last to what lengths have things come in Alabama when a group of citizens cannot assemble, peaceably, and discuss any matter they elect to discuss without the interference of a group of armed ruffians parading in the name of the law.

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On the face of the reports purporting to present the situation and judging from them alone, any person familiar with race conditions in Alabama, knows that anything even remotely approaching an accurate picture of the situation has not been presented to the country. Who ever heard of Negroes in Alabama meeting and threatening the life of the Governor? Or who ever heard of Negroes in Alabama meeting and demanding social equality or intermarriage with white people? It is a cowardly lie and those responsible for circulating such falsehoods are simply creating a smoke screen behind which to hide their malicious persecutions.

• • • •

While we hold no brief for the International Labor Defense and feel that its efforts on behalf of our people will eventuate in more harm than good, we still hold that members of our group even in Alabama have a right to meet and organize, if they see fit, under the auspices of this or any other organization, unmolested and without being terrorized by self-appointed guardians of Alabama law and order.

Very likely, all that happened was this: These poor farmers were organizing in a co-operative manner for their mutual welfare and they may have uttered some word of protest against the Scottsboro outrage, or began a defense fund, and the Alabama guardians of white supremacy decided that they would have none of it and proceeded to shoot up and break up the meetings. Even from the biased Associated Press reports, it is quite evident that what disorder there was was initiated by the supposed officers of the law.

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The ruling Alabamans may feel that the situation there is one which they can settle by murder and terrorization of the blacks, but they will find that they are making the wrong approach to the problem which is theirs. The whole civilized world today has eyes focused upon Alabama. Only one who was born and has lived his life in the South can conceive the utter ruthlessness and even savagery of rural law authorities, when given free rein by an indifferent governor, who refuses to use the State's police and military power to curb the ravages of sheriff-appointed "posses" which in many cases are very little more than bloodthirsty mobs turned loose with arms to wreak vengeance. This condition cannot endure in a civilized state without doing violence to the social, industrial and political fabric of the state itself.

SO-CALLED RIOT

Why should the colored people of Camp Hill Ala., be accused of rioting? These people were holding a meeting in their locality and in their church. The meeting was an orderly one. A number of white men conceived the idea of breaking up the meeting with the assistance of the officers. Without a just cause this was attempted with the result that the colored participants were placed on the defensive and charged with rioting. The facts are plain. Since the decades of emancipation, a certain class of white land owners has been taking advantage of their farm hands, especially share croppers. This resulted in an abject slavish condition of these croppers. Time is changing, and these croppers have begun to think for themselves and for their protection against advantages. These croppers believe in unity of purpose for which reason they have organized and have been holding meetings to perfect the same. The white land owners becoming aware of this action, are determined to thwart the movement. They could adopt no better plan than trying to stampede the meeting and frighten the leaders. They have succeeded in the first, but the latter attempt will be a failure, for, instead, these men will become more determined to carry through their plan, knowing that their action is within accord of the law. This movement of the croppers of this section of Alabama is only a beginning. It will spread to other states. It will be mainly to maintain their economic standing and to secure that which they are justly entitled. To gain this, they will not resort to any revolutionary method, or do or say anything contrary to the law or create any local discord. What they are attempting to do should meet the hearty accord of every white person who is in favor of fair play. For all of these years unjust treatment has been accorded these people and advantage taken of them. It would be far better for the accused land owners to act fairly toward these croppers. This will induce them to become more contented, work harder, produce more and better crops, thus causing more prosperity and activity to be in every locality. Less selfish land owners should readily agree and adopt plans to treat croppers in a fair manner.

SLAIN IN BED BY POLICE

RALPH GRAY, COLORED LABOR MAN, MURDERED — POLICE RAID WORKERS MEETINGS IN PROTEST OF SCOTTSBORO EXECUTION—COLORED HAVE TO SHOOT BACK — MANY ARRESTED. 7-25-31

CAMPHILL, Alabama, July 17, 1931. (CNA)—Colored workers and tenant farmers are being hunted down and deliberately murdered by wholesale in Alabama for daring to protest against the frame-up of the nine innocent boys at Scottsboro.

One worker, Ralph Gray, shot down on the street at Camp Hill, Alabama, was later murdered in his bed by officers of the law as he lay mortally wounded. Other Colored workers have been shot down in cold blood according to latest reports as this paper goes to press.

In defending themselves from the murderous assaults, a number of Colored workers are said to have fired upon and wounded a sheriff and his deputy who were attempting to kill them. For this resistance to murder, many workers are now in prison where it is likely they will be murdered by officers of the law or by manufactured mobs provoked by the capitalist press and with the connivance of the officers.

This is a deliberate cold blooded slaughter—the turning loose of bloody mass terror against the oppressed, jim-crowed and exploited people, by the deliberate action of representatives of the ruling class, officials of the County and of the State of Alabama. This is the result and logical continuation of the conspiracy of the white ruling class of Alabama thru its courts and officers of the law to murder the nine innocent Colored boys, who were recently framed up and sentenced to death on false charges of "raping" two white prostitutes at Scottsboro, Alabama.

ASSOCIATED PRESS MISREPRESENTS COLORED AS THE AGGRESSORS

Camp Hill, Ala., July 17, 1931—A meeting here for organizing share-croppers was broken up by police and sheriffs posses for protesting the execution of the nine colored boys sentenced to death at Scottsboro. One man, Gray, colored, was killed, at least five wounded and over seventeen colored arrested.

The Associated Press misrepresents that colored were the aggressors, which they were not, and that Gray fired on the police first, which he did not, as follows:—

Colored Falsely Accused

A church in which the meeting was held was burned down soon afterward. Officers are investigating to determine if incendiarism was involved.

A posse of eight men reported from Notasulga, Ala., late today that they were still trailing a colored man from Chattanooga, Tenn., who for two months has been organizing colored in this section in what confiscated minute books described as "the Society for the Advancement of Colored People."

Chief of Police J. M. Wilson said last night's meeting was in protest against the death sentence imposed against the eight colored at Scottsboro, Ala., in April.

Colored Misrepresented—They Fired in Self-Defense

The disorders, in which more than 200 shots were fired, were precipitated as Sheriff J. Kyle Young and Deputy Sheriffs Jack Thompson and Wilson approached the church where the

meeting was in progress.

Truth is Gray Fired in Self-Defense

Ralph Gray, on picket duty near the church, fired on the officers when they sought to question him. They returned the fire. Sheriff Young was struck in the side by a charge from a shotgun and Thompson was wounded in the wrist. Gray dropped under a volley from the officers and was left for dead. Later he was picked up by an unidentified motorist and taken home.

A physician called to treat him notified a posse, and at the Gray home they were met with another volley. In the exchange Gray was struck several times and died en route to jail with eight companions who had taken refuge in the house.

Biggest Battle

The most prolonged battle between 150 possemen and members of the organization occurred near the church. Three negroes were wounded.

Two of the wounded were taken to the Dadeville Jail. The other, Chief Wilson said, "went to cut stovewood." Asked when he would return, Wilson said: "He has lots to cut," and declined to comment further.

The meeting last night was the second that officers have broken up, the first being at Dadeville last Wednesday night, where a quantity of literature was seized.

The seized literature, Wilson said, urged members to demand social equality and intermarriage with the white race, to demand $2 a day for work and not to ask, but "demand what you want, and if you don't get it, take it."

Shooting Deliberate Slaughter

The International Labor Defense in a statement tonight protested against the circumstances under which Ralph Gray, colored, was shot to death near Camp Hill, Ala. The statement said, "This is a deliberate slaughter."

Gray, the statement asserted, was on his way to attend a meeting of Share Croppers Union which has been in process of organization during the last few months.

FINDS PLOT TO KILL ALABAMA SHERIFF

Dadeville Solicitor Questions 66 Negroes Rounded Up by Posses After Shooting.

ARMED MEN GUARD ROADS

Organizations Here Protest to Governor Miller Against Action of State Officers.

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 18 (AP).—An investigation has disclosed a plot to kill Sheriff J. Kyle Young as one objective of a meeting held by Negro radicals near here Thursday night, that led to clashes with posses in which one man was slain, five were wounded and sixty arrested, according to Solicitor Sanford Mullins.

Another motive for the meeting was to protest the death sentences imposed on eight Negroes at Scottsboro after they were convicted of attacking two white girls riding as hoboes on a freight train. Officials say they have evidence those at the meeting threatened Governor B. M. Miller with violence unless he liberated the condemned Negroes.

Sheriff Young was shot and seriously wounded as he and a deputy sheriff attempted to question a Negro picket at a church in which the meeting was in progress. The picket was later killed by possemen.

Charges of assault with intent to commit murder were preferred today against five of the Negroes arrested and imprisoned here. Twenty were charged with conspiring to commit a felony and seven were charged with carrying concealed weapons. No charges have been made against the others.

Solicitor Mullins said he learned from questioning the Negroes that they called their organization "the Share Croppers Union," but that all efforts to establish the identity of the Negro organizer from Chattanooga, Tenn., who escaped a posse yesterday, had failed.

"One of the Negroes told me that two months ago four white men and the Negro from Chattanooga arrived here in an automobile to begin the organization," Solicitor Mullins said, "and after a day or two the white men departed, leaving the Negro to complete the organization.

"There is no doubt in my mind that if the Sheriff and his deputies had not exchanged shots with the picket they would have been murdered on arrival at the church," the Solicitor said.

Tension in Dadeville had relaxed today and the usual Saturday crowd, except for an absence of Negroes, was on the streets. Business, however, was at a standstill, as the crowds were mostly curiosity seekers.

Quiet Restored at Camp Hill.

CAMP HILL, Ala., July 18 (AP).—After a night of futile combing of the woods by armed possemen to round up organizers and members of "the Society for the Advancement of Colored People," Tallapoosa County was practically restored to quiet today.

A scheduled meeting of the society last night in the woods near here did not take place, so far as 200 possemen could discover. Other possemen were unable to find any trace of a reported invasion by armed Communists from Chattanooga, Tenn., but all roads leading from there were guarded throughout the night.

Officials this morning expressed the opinion the Negroes active in the society had taken to the woods and would remain in hiding for at least a few weeks. The community settled down to a program of "watchful waiting."

The society, organized within the last two months, has been holding meetings to protest the sentencing to death of eight Negroes in Scottsboro. Officials say there are 170 known members in this vicinity.

Protests Sent to Gov. Miller.

A protest against the interference of the State's officers in private meetings of Negroes was forwarded to Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama yesterday by oRger N. oBldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, according to an announcement from the headquarters of that organization.

In a telegram Mr. Baldwin urged that a thorough investigation be made into the action of Sheriff J. Kyle Young and an armed posse against two gatherings of Negro tenant-farmers in Tallapoosa County, and that an executive order be issued to the State's officers "to respect the rights of Negroes."

"We submit that breaking up private meetings by armed officers is a violation of the rights they have sworn to protect," Mr. Baldwin declared in his message. "All subsequent troubles seem to have been due to that lawless abuse of power. This seems to us the central issue at the bottom of tragic disorders."

The following protest was telegraphed to Governor Miller by J. Louis Engdahl, general secretary of International Labor Defense:

"International Labor Defense protests the deliberate murder of Gray by landowners' police, the wounding of many Negro workers and the jailing of thirty-two. We demand safety from lynching for arrested Negroes. Press reports Chief of Police Wilson saying in reference to four missing Negroes that 'they went out to cut stove wood, and have lots to cut,' refusing any further information. Demand the whereabouts of these four workers.

"Terror let loose by plantation owners against share croppers and their union must cease. We demand for all workers, black and white, the right of assembly and free speech to organize unions and protests against unbearable conditions and discrimination because of color."

Denies Communist Affiliation.

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of colored people, issued a statement last night concerning the riots in Tallapossa County, Ala., in part as follows:

"I am certain that the meeting broken up at Camp Hill, Ala., was not one of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The organization has no connection whatever with the communists. Instead, it has been a target recently of vicious communist attacks and misrepresentations. We have feared trouble because of the manner in which the communists have made bombastic and empty threats in the Scottsboro cases.

"The association has retained distinguished counsel to defend the nine Negro boys recently tried at Scottsboro. Eight of them, all minors, having been sentenced to die.

"We believe them innocent, after careful investigations by two members of our staff.

"We are investigating the present outbreak and will do everything in our power to protect from mob violence those who are being attacked."

NEW YORK SUN

JUL 20 1931

NEGROES HELD ON RIOT CHARGES

Some in Alabama Shooting Accused of Conspiracy.

THIRTY-FOUR ARE NOW IN JAIL

Authorities Believe Share Croppers Union Is Dispersed.

DADEVILLE, Ala., July 20 (A. P.).—Thirty-four Negroes arrested in connection with efforts of Tallapoosa county authorities to break up "the Share Croppers Union" were in jail today on charges ranging from conspiracy to murder to carrying concealed weapons while the internation labor defense and Police Chief J. M. Wilson of Camp Hill engaged in a duel of statements.

Conspiracy to murder and assault with intent to murder charges were lodged against some of the Negroes as the result of the wounding Thursday night of Sheriff J. Kyle Young near Camp Hill while a meeting of the union was in progress.

Ralph Gray, a Negro, was accused by officers of the actual wounding and he was slain, but Solicitor Sanford Mullins asserts he has evidence the meeting was called to plot the murder of Young and his deputies.

Statement Is Denied.

This version was denied last night in a formal statement in Chattanooga of Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the Southern district of the International Labor defense, who said the slaying of Gray was unjustifiable and "these croppers, organizing to obtain the bare necessities of life, were protesting the attempted legal lynching of nine Negro boys at Scottsboro, Ala."

Wakefield also charged that four Negroes probably were lynched during the Camp Hill warfare.

"Every attempt," he said, "on the part of Negro and white workers and poor farmers to organized against starvation or against the bosses' terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

He said objectives of the Share Croppers Union were to prevent food allowances from being cut off, to obtain cash settlement for crops this fall, to win a general improvement of working conditions and to fight the conviction of the Scottsboro Negroes for an alleged assault on two white girls who were hoboing aboard a freight train.

Shot in Self-Defense.

In reply, Chief Wilson denied that any other Negroes besides Gray were killed, and said Gray was shot only after he had fired twice on the officers, and his killing was in defense of the offices' lives. The chief also denied that any attempt had been made to cut off food allowances, as "land owners had to have laborers to harvest their crops or lose them."

The situation in Tallapoosa county was normal over the week end. Officers express belief the organizers and members of the union have been dispersed, at least for some time.

The union was organized about two months ago. In raids on its meetings officers said they found evidence of organization of a Society for the Advancement of Colored People to obtain political and social equality, but this order is not now accused of having any part in the disturbances of last week.

WHAT THE ALA. SHARE CROPPERS DEMAND

The shooting, jailing and killing around Camp Hill, Alabama, last week was an attack on foundation of a share-croppers' union. The Scottsboro legal-lynching was protested also, incidentally.

The share-croppers' demands as formulated up to the time of the massacre were: 1) food advances to continue until settlement time; 2) settlement to be made in full by cash payment; 3) the share croppers to have right to sell their crops where they saw fit; 4) the right of a garden for their home use; 5) a three hour midday rest. The demands are reasonable, just and necessary.

Agriculture 1931

Arkansas

Labor Conditions.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
DEMOCRAT

SEP 11 1931

NIGHTRIDERS.

Ranking with anonymous defamers of character and similar despicable exploiters of the innocent and ignorant are the so-called "nightriders" who, at almost regular intervals, appear to terrorize those who by the very nature of their lives are prey for such cowards. The current depression, with its accompanying pessimism, has brought them out in Pulaski county with the result that negro cotton pickers are refusing to work and planters are anxious over the outcome.

There is a marked similarity in the efforts of all "nightriders." Without exception their scrawled warnings show they are ignorant, illiterate but sufficiently familiar with the weaknesses of their victims to know how to impress them. A warning posted on one Pulaski county farm is typical:

"If you be caught picking cotton for 35 cents you will be sorry. You chopped cotton for nothing but you won't pick for nothing. If you want to die you just go out in those fields and you surely will die. If the Lord tells you to pick you can do so but we will stop you with a shotgun."

Another dependable feature of such incidents is the preposterous stories which always spring up, wild statements which even mildly informed persons would not believe. Typical of such rumors is the statement of negroes that they had been told that the Red Cross had advised pickers not to work for less than 50 cents a hundred pounds and the organization would feed them through the winter.

Sheriff Blake Williams has taken the only action possible. He has offered rewards for the arrest of any persons found putting up such placards and has pledged protection for any pickers who want to work.

The warnings are attributed to Communists which may be fact, but it so happens that such misguided morons are pretty much in the national limelight. But regardless of the identity of the guilty the only "law" they know is that of force and Sheriff Williams will receive hearty support of the people of the county in his efforts to apply the law.

Threat Halts Picking Of Cotton in Arkansas

Constitution
9-12-31

GARLAND CITY, Ark., Sept. 11.—(AP)—Cotton picking in this district was halted today as the result of two unidentified men warning negro pickers that cotton would be burned before it reached the gins.

Officers learned that the men had ridden through the district and spread the warning over a wide area, frightening the negroes.

Farmers were having considerable difficulty inducing the pickers to return to their work, despite the assurance of full protection.

NEGROES WARNED AGAINST PICKING

Democrat
9-13-31

Agitator Reported to Have Circulated in Crittenden County.

Memphis, Tenn.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ark., Sept. 12.—That negroes and white tenants on several Crittenden County farms have been warned "not to pick cotton" was learned here this afternoon when some of the tenants reported to the planters that an agitator had visited their homes in the last few days.

This report followed on the heels of a meeting in Little Rock yesterday of Pulaski County farmers who sought to learn the identity of a man who visited their tenants and issued the same warning.

What significance is attached to the warning cannot be learned as several of the negroes are tight-lipped except for the statement that "the man" had visited them. The indifferent attitude of some of the other negroes was noticeable in that when asked when they were going to start picking, they would reply "in a few days, maybe."

Plenty Cotton to Pick.

Commercial Appeal

A plan put into effect by the Business Men's Club of Caruthersville, Mo., has a salutary effect on unemployment. A notice signed by the city attorney, chief of police, sheriff and constable was circulated among the unemployed. The notice stated that many persons in the community without visible means of support were refusing to pick cotton on account of low price, and for the further reason that the Red Cross would take care of them this winter. The notice admonished those who refuse to work that they would be dealt with as vagrants, and that no aid would be provided during the winter unless evidence were forthcoming that they worked regularly during the cotton picking season. 10-7-31

Memphis

W. W. Helm, president of the Southeast Missouri Compress Co., tells us that as a result of this notice more than 400 persons went to work picking cotton the following day. The rest of the country can afford to follow this example. There is much cotton to be picked and the price for picking is commensurate with the value of the crop.

It is not a new experience. The first pronunciamento issued on this continent was by Captain John Smith, who said that "he who does not work shall not eat." No obligation rests on a community to feed any one who refuses to work.

Thousands Are Needed To Pick Cotton Crops

Commercial Appeal
10-8-31

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Oct. 7.—(AP)—In a proclamation that said thousands of pickers were needed to prevent a large loss on the cotton crop, Gov. Parnell today asked officials of all communities in the State to organize in a move to transfer the unemployed of the cities to the fields.

Memphis, Tenn.

"There should be no idlers, no loiterers in the towns," the proclamation said. "The cotton must be picked while it is white. The quality must be maintained."

The Governor said delay in picking the crop "means loss of thousands of dollars due to deteriorated grade and to the loss of cotton through the storm elements."

MEXICANS IMPORTED TO PICK COTTON

Memphis, Tenn.
10-15-31

HELENA, Ark., Nov. 3.—Scarcity of Negro cotton pickers has struck a hard blow to white farmers here. Negroes who usually do his work have refused to go to the fields to pick cotton for between 25 and 40 cents a day. Recently the Phillips County Delta Association, announced plans for importing 500 Mexicans from South Texas.